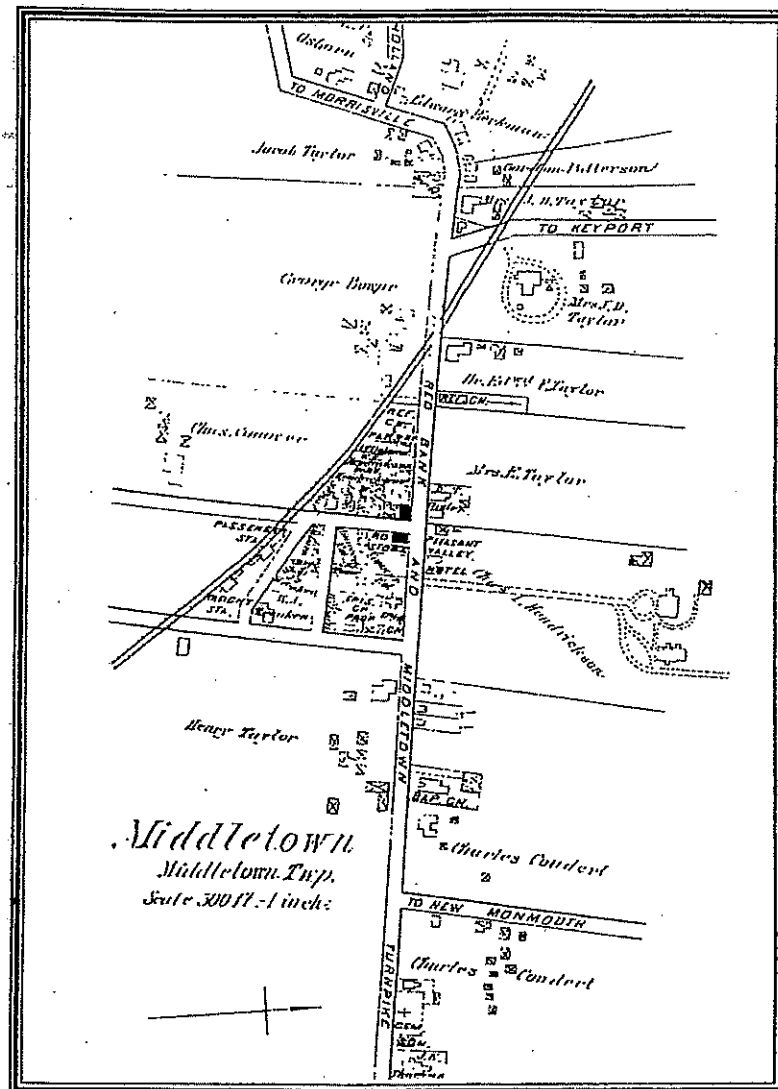


Middletown Village Historic District

Township of Middletown



Middletown Landmarks Commission

The MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT survey report was prepared by
the Middletown Township Landmarks commission and historic preservation consultant
Gail Hunton for the purpose of re-designating the historic district under Township
Ordinance #2017

May 1990

Revised 2008

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP

PLANNING BOARD

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD

FROM: GAIL HUNTON

SUBJECT: MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Middletown Village Historic District Description

The Middletown Village Historic District, located in central Middletown Township, is the nucleus of the Township's first and foremost settlement. Most of the ninety-nine (99) properties within the village district are clustered along Kings Highway and Red Hill Road between Township Hall and Spruce Drive on the east, and Holland Road on the west. In addition, the district includes properties on Church Street, Liberty Street, Conover Avenue, The Trail, and Penelope Lane. (See attached map for specific boundaries). District boundaries were delineated to incorporate the extent of Middletown village in the 18th and 19th centuries, its significant individual sites, and to reflect existing conditions.

The vast majority of properties within Middletown Village Historic District (75 out of 99) are residential. The village district, however, is greatly enhanced by the variety of other non-residential structures that are associated with the early development of religion, education and commerce in Middletown Township. These include three 19th century landmark church edifices (First Baptist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and the Dutch Reformed Church); Franklin Academy (Site #28), arguably the finest early school remaining in Monmouth County; the Truax Blacksmith Shop (Site #84), likewise an important early survivor of its type; a former tavern (Site #90); the First Store (Site #95); a former leather and harness shop (Site #98); and six burying grounds.

Of the ninety-nine (99) properties in the district, twelve (12) have origins in the 18th century or earlier. Five of these are burying grounds that contain the graves of some of Middletown's first settlers. The oldest documented structures still standing in the village include the Grover-Taylor house, also known as Marlpit Hall (Site #1); the Richard Hartshorne house (Site #25); the William Murray house (Site #23); the Edward Taylor house (site #62); the Wilson-Bowne house (Site #90); the First Store (Site #95, now demolished); and 1 Red Hill Road (Site #98).

Although the 18th century structures and sites are among the most significant in Middletown village, forty per cent of the district's properties date from the 19th century, and it is these properties that largely define the district's existing architectural character. A composite of 19th century architectural styles and building types is represented in the district, including noteworthy examples of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate and Queen Anne Styles, as well as a range of vernacular structures (such as the blacksmith shop and railroad station) that contribute to the historic character of the village. In addition, 20th century buildings make up a significant percentage of the district; many of these infill structures represent the Colonial Revival, Four Square, and Bungalow Styles of the early 20th century.

MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Significance and History

Middletown Village is among the oldest permanent English settlements in New Jersey, along with Elizabeth, Shrewsbury, Newark, Woodbridge and Piscataway. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the district contains important examples of 18th and 19th century building in the state, and includes sites that have a tangible association with the early religious, educational, economic, social and military history of Middletown Township and New Jersey.

The first land purchase was by a deed dated January 25, 1664 from Popomora, Indian chief, to James Hubbard, John Bowne, John Tilton, Richard Stout, William Goulding and Samuel Spicer. On August 27, 1664, Peter Stuyvesant surrendered New Amsterdam to the English, whereupon Colonel Richard Nicholls, Governor for the Duke of York, commanded all planters resident in the colonies to take out ducal land-patents. Captain Bowne, Richard Stout and friends immediately applied for such a charter, in order to cover the Indian purchases which they had made, and received the famous "Monmouth Patent." One of the conditions of the 1665 patent was that "within the space of three years," the patentees must "manure and plant the land and premises and settle there one hundred families at the least."

Settlement commenced immediately, with the first settlers coming principally from Rhode Island, Long Island and Massachusetts Bay. The First Town Book of Middletown (1667 to 1699) shows that the original settlement of Middletown village consisted of thirty-six "home lots" and thirty-six "outlots" laid out in a linear fashion, along a pre-existing Indian path (that later became Kings Highway). The home lots seemed to vary greatly in size, ranging from ten to thirty-two acres or more. Some of the early lot configurations are still visible today upon examination of existing lot lines in relation to historic ownership.

The village was located at the junction of three great Indian paths and the nearby Indian village of Chaquasitt. These trails and the clearings provided early settlers with access to other sections of East and West Jersey, and the advantage of tillable land. Particularly favorable was the easy access to the sea by way of Indian trails.

The General Assembly of the colony of New Jersey directed that every town provide an ordinary (tavern or inn) for the convenience of its citizens as well as travelers. In the early years of settlement, the local ordinary became a virtual town hall as well as a full service inn. Such a place provided facilities for social discussion, political deliberation, militia rallies, legal transactions, serving of court summons and making of arrests. Middletown village had taverns at an early date, but the locations and innkeepers are not well documented. There was reportedly a tavern on Kings Highway by about 1729 (see Site #10), and William Wilson operated a tavern between 1808 and 1836 at the corner of Kings Highway and Red Hill Road (see Site #90).

By 1834, Thomas Gordon's *Gazetteer of the State of New Jersey* described Middletown village as "situate in rolling and fertile country, based on marl; [it] contains an Episcopal, a Dutch Reformed and a Baptist church, two stores, two taverns and from twenty to twenty-five dwellings, among which there are several very neat and commodious." By 1850, Middletown village had become the principal commercial and trading center for those residing within a radius of ten miles; at that time it consisted of about forty houses; three churches, a school, four stores, two carriage factories, three blacksmith shops, two leather shops, one harness shop, a tanyard and a hotel. It was during the prosperous mid-19th century period that many of the village's substantial houses were built.

The west end of the Middletown Village Historic District was at one time called "The Fourth Ward," after the toughest section of New York City. Several stores and artisans shops were located in this section along Red Hill Road, including a general store, harness shop and shoe shop.

RELIGION

There are three historic churches on Kings Highway in the Middletown Village Historic District. The First Baptist Church of Middletown (Site #21) organized in 1688, is the oldest Baptist congregation in New Jersey. Christ Episcopal Church (Site #64), organized in 1702, is one of the oldest Episcopal parishes in New Jersey. The Dutch Reformed Church (Site #5) dates from 1836.

EDUCATION

Two early schools remain in the district. The Sheep House (Site #63) was used as a school in the early 19th century, with Robert Austin as teacher. Franklin Academy (Site #28), erected in 1836, operated as a private academy until 1851, when it was turned over to the school district and used continuously as the village school until 1902.

MILITARY

Middletown Village figured in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. In 1778, the day following the Battle of Monmouth, British troops retreated through the village, marching in parade down Kings Highway. Christ Church was a meeting place of Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis withdrawing from the Battle of Monmouth. Many of the wounded were left behind and for several months Christ Church and the Baptist Church were used as hospitals.

William Truex, a local resident and a captain in the Mexican War of 1846-48, used his blacksmith shop (see Site #84) as temporary headquarters for training American troops. Drilling took place along Kings Highway. The general forces drilled here became known as the Governor's Light Guards, serving in the Civil War.

SUMMARY

The Middletown Township Landmarks Commission believes that the Middletown Village Historic District meets the criteria for historic district designation, and possesses a "significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of one or more historic sites, buildings, structures, and/or objects and intervening or surrounding property which, viewed collectively, represent a significant period in the development of the Township or have a distinctive character..." (Section 16-2.3). The Middletown Township Landmarks Commission strongly recommends to the Township Committee the designation of the Middletown Village Historic District as indicated on the accompanying map and as provided for by Middletown Township Ordinance #2017 in order to "enhance and perpetuate the heritage of the Township of Middletown as one of the earliest settlements in New Jersey."

MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
SELECTED REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Monmouth County (1873).

Ellis, Edward and Henry Snyder. History of New Jersey (1910).

Ellis, Franklin. History of Monmouth County (1885).

Hunton, Gail and James McCabe. Monmouth County Historic Sites Inventory (1980-1984).

Jelliffe, Thelma K. Achter Coll to Zoning (1982).

Lightfoot, Jesse. Map of Monmouth County (1851).

Mandeville, Ernest W. The Story of Middletown (1927).

Middletown Township Landmarks Commission Files.

Toop, Marion. Iron Kettles, Home Brew, and Epitaphs (1982).

Wacker, Peter O. Land and People: A Cultural Geography of Pre-Industrial New Jersey (1975).

Wolverton, Chester. Atlas of Monmouth County (1889).

Woolman and Rose, Atlas of the New Jersey Coast (1878).

NOTE: Research on individual properties also included deeds, wills, genealogies, township records, private papers, historical photographs, as well as interviews with selected owners and physical inspections of properties.

MIDDLETOWN VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT Property Inventory

Attached is an inventory of the ninety-nine (99) properties included in the Middletown Village Historic District. The purpose of the inventory is to substantiate the significance of the district as a whole by providing architectural and historical documentation on its individual components. The inventory will also help the Township administer the historic district by providing a reference source on individual structures to use in the Commission's project and design reviews. The information herein is a synopsis, and is **not** intended as a complete history of the district and its individual structures.

As per the historic preservation ordinance, properties are classified into the three categories below for documentary purposes. *All properties in the district, regardless of their classification, are subject to the same regulations and review process under the ordinance.*

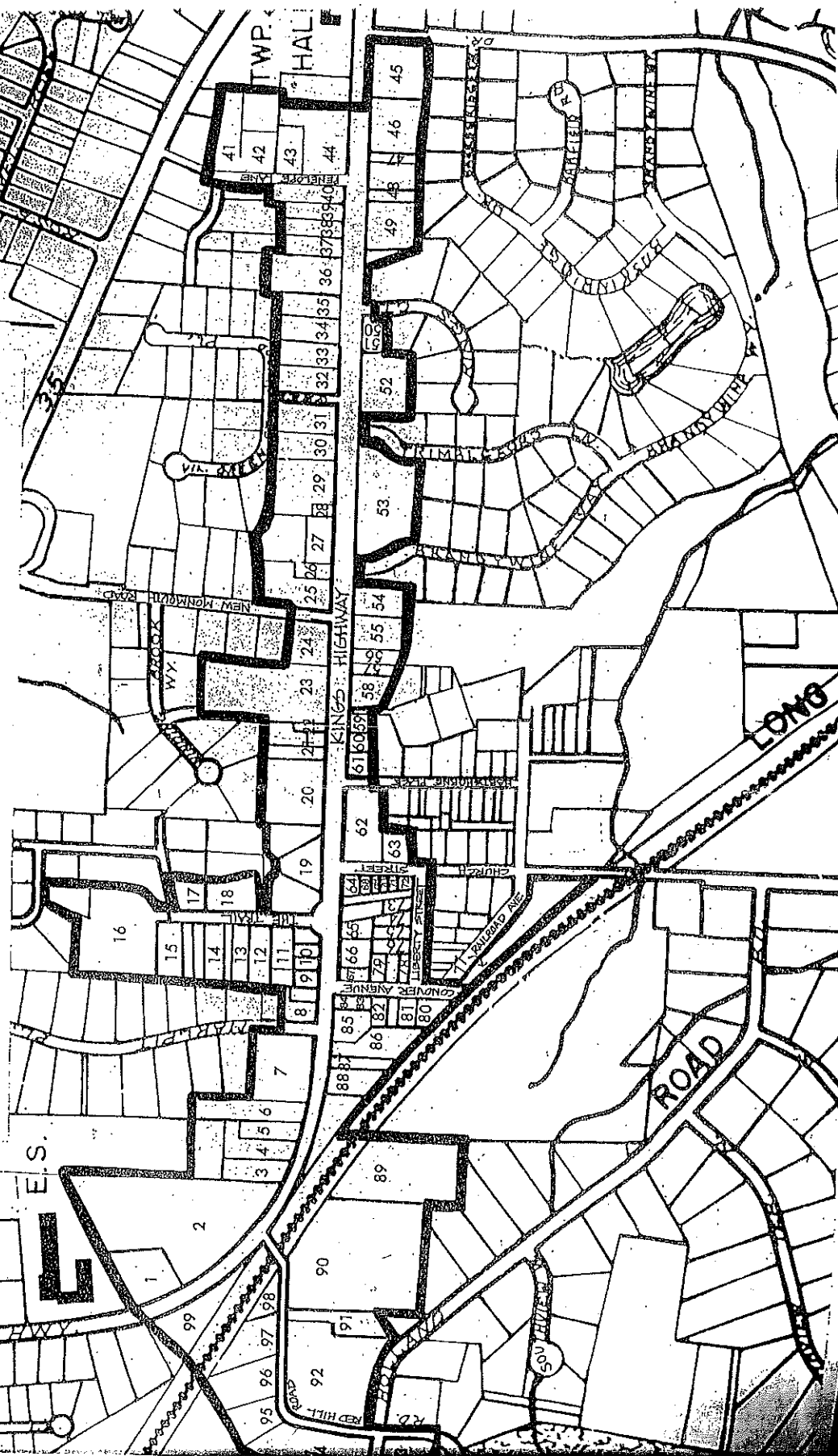
KEY: Any building, structures, sites or objects which, due to their significance, would individually qualify for landmark status.

CONTRIBUTING: Any buildings, structures, sites or objects which are integral components of the historic district either because they date from a time period for which the district is significant or because they represent an architectural type, period, or method of construction for which the district is significant.

NON-CONTRIBUTING: Any buildings, structures, sites or objects which are not integral components of the historic district either because they neither date from a time period for which the district is significant nor represent an architectural type, period, or method of construction for which the district is significant.

NOTE ON CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: Although village origins date from the late 17th century and a number of "Key" 18th century structures and sites distinguish the district, the existing physical and architectural characteristics of Middletown Village are predominantly 19th century. Consequently, all 19th century buildings are classified as "Contributing" unless they have lost integrity through radical alteration. In addition, the Middletown Village Historic District is characterized by a significant number of structures dating from the early 20th century. Therefore, those buildings that are over fifty years old (before 1940) and exhibit compatible scale, form, and materials with the overall district, are also classified as "Contributing."

Middletown Village Historic District
Township of Middletown



SITE	HISTORICAL NAME/ADDRESS	BLOCK/LOT	CLASSIFICATION
1	137 Kings Highway Grover/Traylor House (Marlpit Hall)	Block 805, Lot 2	Key
2	127 Kings Highway Joseph Taylor House (Orchard House)	Block 805, Lot 1	Key
3	119 Kings Highway Reformed Church Parsonage	Block 805, Lot 30	Contributing
4	121 Kings Highway Reformed Church Religious Education Building	Block 805, Lot 29	Non-Contributing
5	121 Kings Highway Reformed Church of Middletown	Block 805, Lot 29	Contributing
6	121 Kings Highway Reformed Church Cemetery	Block 805, Lot 29	Contributing
7	111 Kings Highway	Block 805, Lot 31	Contributing
8	109 Kings Highway (Casler House)	Block 805, Lot 52.02	Contributing
9	107 Kings Highway	Block 850, Lot 53	Contributing
10	105 Kings Highway	Block 805, Lot 54	Non-Contributing
11	44 The Trail	Block 805, Lot 55	Non-Contributing
12	40 The Trail	Block 805, Lot 56	Non-Contributing
13	38 The Trail	Block 805, Lot 57	Non-Contributing
14	36 The Trail	Block 805, Lot 58	Non-Contributing
15	34 The Trail	Block 805, Lot 59	Contributing
16	28 The Trail (Locustwood)	Block 805, Lot 62	Key
17	35 The Trail	Block 807, Lot 27	Non-Contributing
18	39 The Trail	Block 807, Lot 26	Non-Contributing
19	Kings Highway and The Trail Christ Church Parking Lot	Block 807, Lots 22 & 23	Contributing
20	69 Kings Highway (Baptist Church Sunday School)	Block 807, Lot 21	Contributing
21	69 Kings Highway (First Baptist Church of Middletown)	Block 807, Lot 21	Key
22	Baptist Church Cemetery	Block 807, Lot 20	Key
23	65 Kings Highway (Murray House)	Block 807, Lot 19	Key
24	63 Kings Highway	Block 807, Lot 18	Non-Contributing
25	61 Kings Highway (Hartshorne House)	Block 811, Lot 12	Key
26	59 Kings Highway (Baptist Church Parsonage)	Block 811, Lot 13	Key
27	Hartshorne Cemetery	Block 811, Lot 14	Key
28	53 Kings Highway (Franklin Academy)	Block 811, Lot 15	Key
29	51 Kings Highway (Thomas House)	Block 811, Lot 16	Contributing
30	49 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 17	Contributing
31	47 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 18	Contributing
32	45 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 19	Non-Contributing
33	43 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 20	Non-Contributing
34	41 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 21	Non-Contributing
35	39 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 22	Non-Contributing

36	35 Kings Highway (Morford/Hendrickson House)	Block 811, Lot 28	Key
37	33 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 29	Non-Contributing
38	31 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 30	Non-Contributing
39	29 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 22	Non-Contributing
40	27 Kings Highway	Block 811, Lot 32	Non-Contributing
41	1 Penelope Lane (Morford House)	Block 815, Lot 7	Contributing
42	3 Penelope Lane	Block 815, Lot 6	Non-Contributing
43	Penelope Lane Lippitt/Taylor/Throckmorton Burial Site	Block 815, Lot 5	Key
44	Kings Highway	Block 56, Lot 7	Contributing
45	18 Kings Highway (Hendrickson House)	Block 813, Lot 22	Contributing
46	20 Kings Highway	Block 813, Lot 21	Non-Contributing
47	22 Kings Highway	Block 813, Lot 20	Non-Contributing
48	28 Kings Highway	Block 813, Lot 19	Contributing
49	30 Kings Highway	Block 813, Lot 18	Contributing
50	Hendrickson Cemetery	Block 813, Lot 3	Key
51	Presbyterian Cemetery	Block 813, Lot 3	Key
52	46 Kings Highway (Bartlett/Merriweather House)	Block 813, Lot 2	Contributing
53	Kings Highway/Buffer	Block 813, Lot 1	Non-Contributing
54	64 Kings Highway	Block 807, Lot 53	Contributing
55	66 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 52	Non-Contributing
56	68 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 51	Contributing
57	70 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 50	Non-Contributing
58	72 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 49	Non-Contributing
59	74 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 43	Contributing
60	76 Kings Highway	Block 809, Lot 42	Contributing
61	78 Kings Highway (N. J. Bell Telephone Co.)	Block 809, Lot 41	Contributing
62	82 Kings Highway (Taylor House)	Block 808, Lot 1.01	Key
62a	84 Kings Highway	Block 808, Lot 1.02	
63	8 Church Street (Sheep House)	Block 808, Lot 2	Contributing
64	96 Kings Highway (Christ Church (Old) & Cemetery)	Block 804, Lot 11	Key
65	96 Kings Highway (Christ Church (New))	Block 804, Lot 2	Non-Contributing
66	96 Kings Highway (Christ Church Thrift Shop)	Block 804, lot 2	Non-Contributing
67	100 Kings Highway (Andy's Market)	Block 804, Lot 1	Non-Contributing
68	1 Church Street	Block 804, Lot 12	Contributing
69	3 Church Street	Block 804, Lot 13	Non-Contributing
70	5 Church Street	Block 804, Lot 14	Contributing
71	7 Church Street	Block 804, Lot 15	Contributing
72	9 Church Street	Block 804, Lot 16	Contributing
73	14 Liberty Street	Block 804, Lot 9	Contributing
74	12 Liberty Street	Block 804, Lot 8	Contributing
75	10 Liberty Street	Block 804, Lot 7	Contributing
76	8 Liberty Street	Block 804, Lot 6	Contributing

77	Middletown Passenger Depot Railroad Avenue	Block 802, Lot 1	Contributing
78	10 Conover Avenue	Block 804, Lot 5	Contributing
79	412 Conover Avenue (Conover House)	Block 804, Lots 3 & 4	Contributing
80	415 Conover Avenue	Block 804, Lot 10	Contributing
81	411 Conover Avenue	Block 804, Lot 9	Contributing
82	407 Conover Avenue	Block 801, Lot 8	Contributing
83	403 Conover Avenue	Block 801, Lot 7	Contributing
84	Kings Highway & Conover Avenue Blacksmith Shop	Block 801, Lot 7	Key
85	110 Kings Highway	Block 801, Lot 6	Contributing
86	112 Kings Highway	Block 801, Lot 5	Contributing
87	114 Kings Highway	Block 801, Lot 4	Contributing
88	116 Kings Highway (Old Reformed Church Parsonage)	Block 801, Lot 3	Contributing
89	120 Kings Highway (Bowne House)	Block 800, Lot 4	Contributing
90	2 Red Hill Road (Wilson/Bowne House)	Block 800, Lot 3	Key
91	Red Hill Road (Vacant Lot)	Block 800, Lot 2	Contributing
92	12 Red Hill Road	Block 800, Lot 1	Contributing
93	107 Red Hill Road (Taylor/Osborne House)	Block 796, Lot 1	Contributing
94	Red Hill Road Frontage of AT&T site	Block 795, Lot 5	Contributing
95	17 Red Hill Road (Demolished) (The First Store)	Block 795, Lot 9	Contributing
96	Red Hill Road (The Tannery)	Block 795, Lot 8	Contributing
97	13 Red Hill Road	Block 795, Lot 7	Contributing
98	1 Red Hill Road	Block 795, Lot 6	Key
99	138 Kings Highway	Block 600, Lot 150	Non-Contributing

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL LAND SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 3

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Monmouth	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

2. Location Continued
The Kings Highway District
Monmouth County 025
New Jersey 34

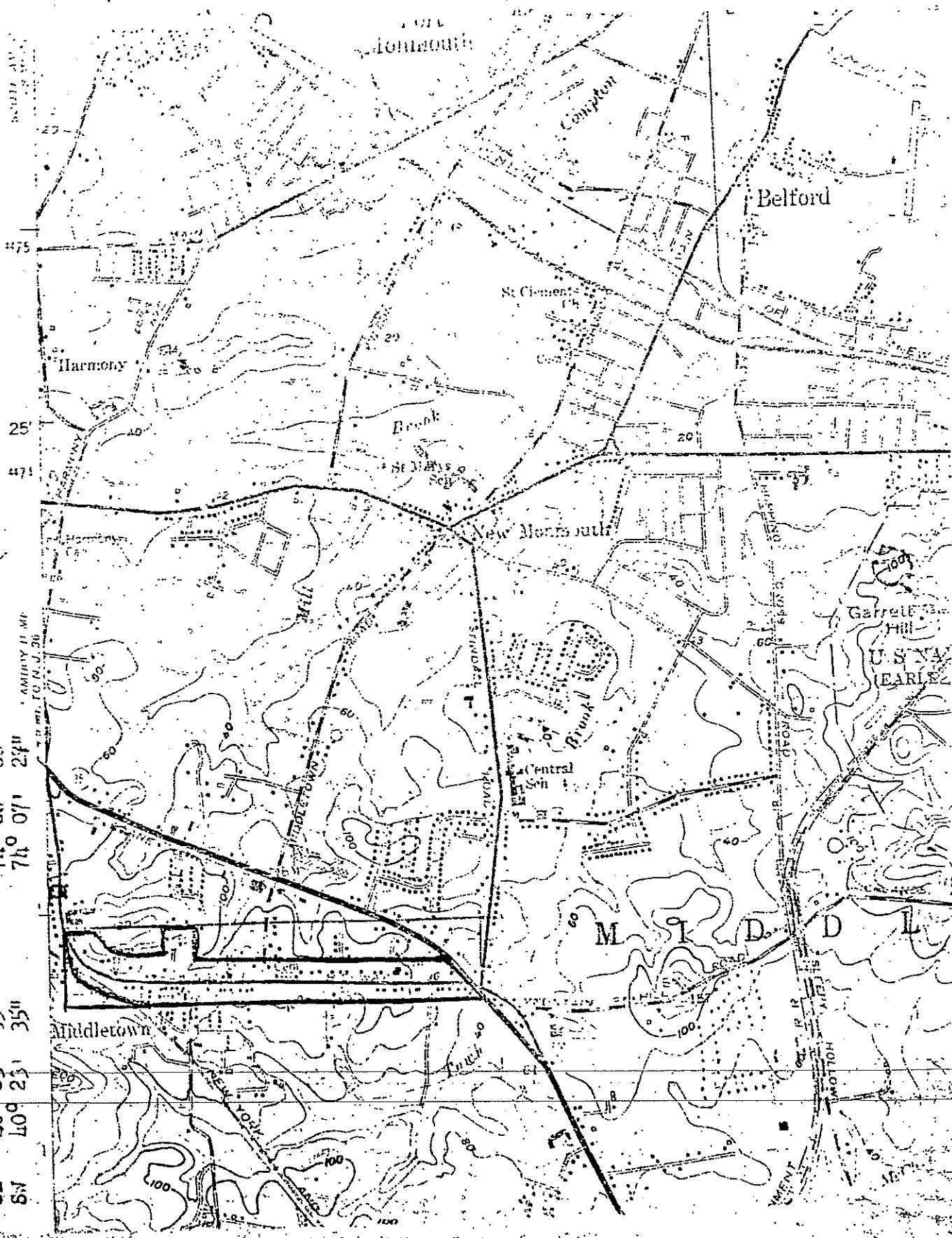
Beginning at the point of intersect of Kings Highway and 150 feet south of the school proceed directly east 400 feet. Thence proceed parallel to Kings Highway to a point 200 ft. west of Lenape Trail. Thence proceed north 400 feet. Thence continue east to center of Lenape trail. Thence proceed south to a distance 300 feet north of Kings Highway. Thence proceed east parallel to Kings Highway, to the right of way of State Route 35. Thence continue Southeast along that right of way across Kings Highway on Route 35, a distance of 300 feet South of Kings Highway on Route 35. Thence proceed west parallel to Kings Highway to Red Hill Road including the property of 2 Red Hill Road. Thence proceed to point of beginning.

NRHP NOMINATION

NRHP NOMINATION

Latitude
NW 40° 23' 47"
NE 40° 23' 47"
SE 40° 23' 35"
SW 40° 23' 35"

Longitude
74° 07' 28"
74° 06' 08"
74° 06' 08"
74° 07' 28"



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #1

James Grover, Jr./John Taylor House (Marlpit Hall)

137 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 2

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLC #43 MCHSI #1331-3-19

Now a house museum owned by the Monmouth county Historical Association. The earliest section, the kitchen wing, was built in 1686 as a one and a half story house by James Grover, Jr. who resided there until his death in 1715. Tradition suggests that John Taylor (1715-1798), an important Monmouth County politician and wealthy merchant, owned the property from the late 1730s until 1752. During this time the structure was significantly altered and expanded. The large main block with Georgian Style center-hall plan and architectural details were added, making the house one of the first local buildings to employ this style. Significant features include an impressive two-section paneled door with hooded porch and Georgian pilasters 12/12 sash windows with paneled shutters, flared eave on front roofline, and interior woodwork.

Subsequent owners include Barnardus Rider of Long Island, who leased the farm to others and apparently never lived there, and Edward Taylor (1712-1783), brother of John Taylor above, who resided in the house from 1771 until his death. Edwards's third son, John Taylor (1740-1818) inherited the farm and married Mary Holmes; their children retained ownership of the property for the rest of their lives. In 1859 Mary Holmes Taylor II, granddaughter of John and Mary Holmes Taylor, purchased the farm and leased it to tenant farmers after she and her husband Joseph Dorsett Taylor built Orchard Home (Site #2). Mary Holmes Taylor III inherited Marlpit Hall from her mother in 1897. In 1919, a proposed road realignment would have destroyed the house. Mary Holmes Taylor III was able to save it by convincing State officials to move it fifty feet to its present location. After Miss Taylor's death in 1930, the house was purchased and restored for the Monmouth County Historical Association through the generosity of Mrs. J. Armory Haskell.

Source: MCHA, "Marlpit Hall Notes."



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #2

Joseph and Mary Holmes Taylor House (Orchard Home)

127 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 1

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLT #42 MCHSI #1331-3-18

This house was built about 1860 shortly after Joseph Dorsett Taylor and his wife Mary Holmes Taylor purchased the property. Their daughter, Mary Holmes Taylor III, inherited this property and Marlpit Hall in 1897 and resided in this house until her death in 1930. An auction after the death of Mary Holmes Taylor III was a major happening of the decade, and included a representative of the Metropolitan Museum among the bidders. A brochure prepared for an 1861 family reunion gives Taylor family history and lists residences of brothers and sisters living in other historic Middletown houses.

Orchard Home is a large Italianate mansion built on a three story, three bay main block with hip roof and three interior chimneys; the two bay gabled wing has a tall interior end chimney. The house is clapboard sided and has a stone foundation. Significant features include the broad cornice with scroll brackets, three-pane lights and frieze band; pronounced cornices over 6/6 sash windows; segmental arch 4/4 sash window in upper central bay; classical pilastered entry with transom light and sidelights; and columned porch. The interior features a large center hall and staircase, and many fireplaces with marble mantels. At one time there was a large servants' wing at the rear, two stories high and joined to the main house by a covered passageway. Aside from the removal of this wing, the house remains as first built. A smokehouse and covered well are still on the grounds.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #3

Reformed Church Parsonage

119 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 30

Classification: contributing

Reference: MTLC #242

Colonial Revival dwelling built c. 1910-1915; purchased in 1962 by the Dutch Reformed Church for a parsonage. Two and a half story three bay rectangular plan with gable roof and central ridge chimney. Vinyl sided. Major architectural features include the broad overhanging eaves, hip roof dormer and tripartite window, grouped 6/1 and 6/6 sash windows, and full porch with central pedimented gable and Doric columns.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #4
Reformed Church Religious Education Building
121 Kings Highway
Block 805, Lot 29
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #241

One story red brick building with gable roof, dedicated in 1963.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #5
The Reformed Church of Middletown
121 Kings Highway
Block 805, Lot 29
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC: #41 MCHSI #1331-3-17

Gothic Revival church built in 1836 and remodeled in 1898-99. Constructed on rectangular plan with a pedimented gable roof and a square inset steeple with tent spire. Originally the building was 40' by 47' in size with a columned façade; a 12 foot front extension and new vestibule with two low towers were part of the 1890s remodeling. Also at that time the stained glass windows were installed, and the original straight-backed pews were replaced with curved oak pews. The foundation is fieldstone and brick, and the exterior is now vinyl sided with the exception of the flush horizontal boards on the gable pediment, scalloped shingles on the vestibule, and vertical board and batten siding on the steeple base. The five side bays have pointed arch windows with stained glass and hoodmolds; the front gable window has a triangular head with a gable lintel. The vestibule features a paneled double door, diamond-pane 1/1 sash windows, and fieldstone entrance steps.

The Reformed Church of Middletown (now the Middletown Reformed Church), was organized on July 4, 1836, mainly from members of the Reformed Church of Holmdel. The church was dedicated on December 9th of that year, and the Rev. Jacob T. B. Beekman served as dominie until 1839. Prior to the construction of this edifice, the village school stood on this lot. (See also Sites #3, 4 and 6).

Source: Middletown Reformed Church, 1836-1986," (150 Anniversary Booklet); Ellis, p. 533; Reverend William Coventry.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #6
Reformed Church Cemetery
121 Kings Highway
Block 805, Lot 29
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #40

Cemetery associated with Dutch Reformed Church congregation, located behind 1836 church building. Headstones date from the early 1800s; among them are the names of early Middletown families as well as the first Cornelius Vanderbilt (d. 1800).



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #7

111 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 31

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #38

Colonial Revival dwelling built in the early 20th century. Two and a half story, three bay rectangular plan with gable roof and full porch. Wood shingle siding and brick foundation. Chief architectural features include the broad overhanging eaves, shed roof dormer with tripartite window, 8/8 sash windows with cornices, and Doric porch columns. Recent alterations to fenestration.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #8

John Casler House

109 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 52.02

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #35 and #36 MCHSI #1331-3-14

Greek Revival dwelling built c. 1830-1850. Two and a half story, three bay square side-hall plan with ear ell and porch on two sides. The house has a gable roof with a box cornice and returned eaves, interior end chimney, brick foundation and clapboard siding. Other significant architectural features include the 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters, paneled frieze on the main façade, pilastered Greek Revival door enframingent with transom light and sidelights, glazed and paneled door (a later 19th century replacement) and the Doric order porch columns. House underwent an excellent restoration in the 1980s.

John Casler, who succeeded William Truex as the owner of the blacksmith shop, probably constructed this house; he is shown as the owner on the 1851, 1873 and 1878 maps. Casler was a descendant of a German family who settled in Monmouth County prior to the Revolution (Ellis, p. 901); he is buried in the Baptist Church burying ground (born July 3, 1802, died October 1, 1877). John Casler's daughter, Elizabeth, lived in the house as a single woman for many years; later in life she married and was the last of the family in the same house for a century.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #9

107 Kings Highway

Block 805, Lot 53

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #34

Victorian vernacular dwelling built in the third quarter of the 19th century. Two and a half story L-plan with intersecting gable roof, brick foundation and vinyl siding. Windows are 1/1 replacement sash and include a triangular-headed gable window; simple doorway is surmounted by a pedimented portico with turned posts. Ownership on 19th century maps is uncertain; appears to have been the property of J. Casler (owner of the house next door) in 1873 and 1878.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #10
105 Kings Highway
Block 805, Lot 54
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #31

One story brick ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

This is the site of an early tavern built about 1729 by George Taylor, and owned and operated by a number of others. The tavern served as an alternate site for town meetings and elections documented in the Second Town Book for 1800-1848. The structure was enlarged and altered over the years; in the 19th century, it was known as the American Hotel, then later as the Pleasant Valley Hotel, and is shown on the 1873, 1878 and 1889 maps. It was a large two and a half story structure with a two-tiered columned porch and sat close to the road. The hotel reputedly was torn down in the 1920s and moved to Long Island.

(Source: undated newspaper clipping and photograph, Monmouth County Historical Association).



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #11

44 The Trail

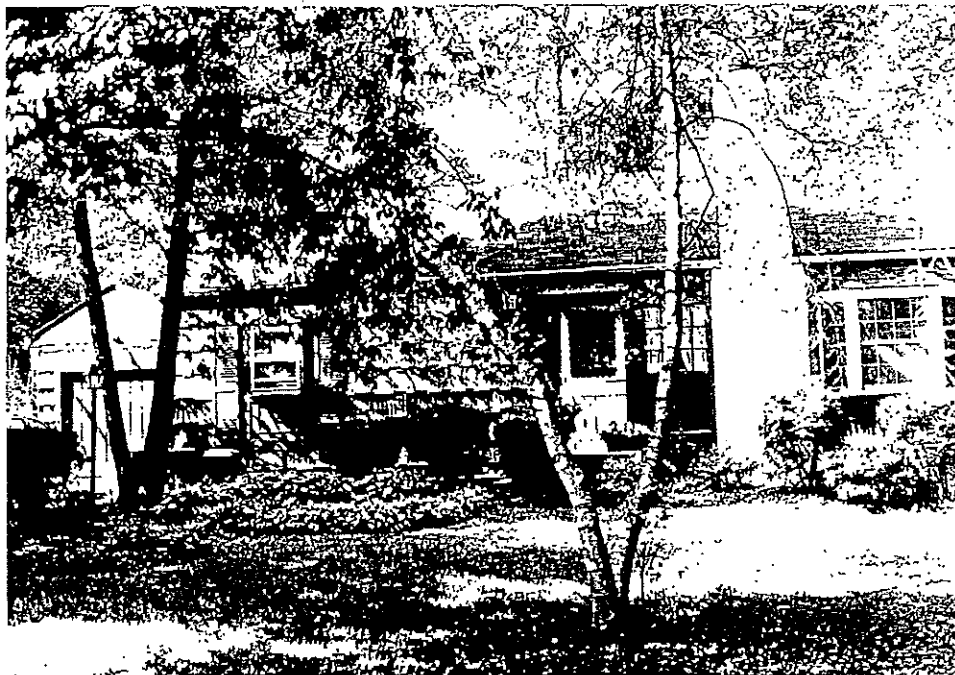
Block 805, Lot 55

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #32

One story, wood shingled house dating from the mid-20th century.

The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16) and the trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #12

40 The Trail

Block 805, Lot 56

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #33

One story, clapboard and brick ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16) and The Trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #13

38 The Trail

Block 805, Lot 57

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #33

Brick and vinyl sided, split-level house dating from the mid-20th century.

The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16) and The Trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #14
36 The Trail
Block 805, Lot 58
Classification: Non-Contributing

One and a half story clapboard and stone-faced ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

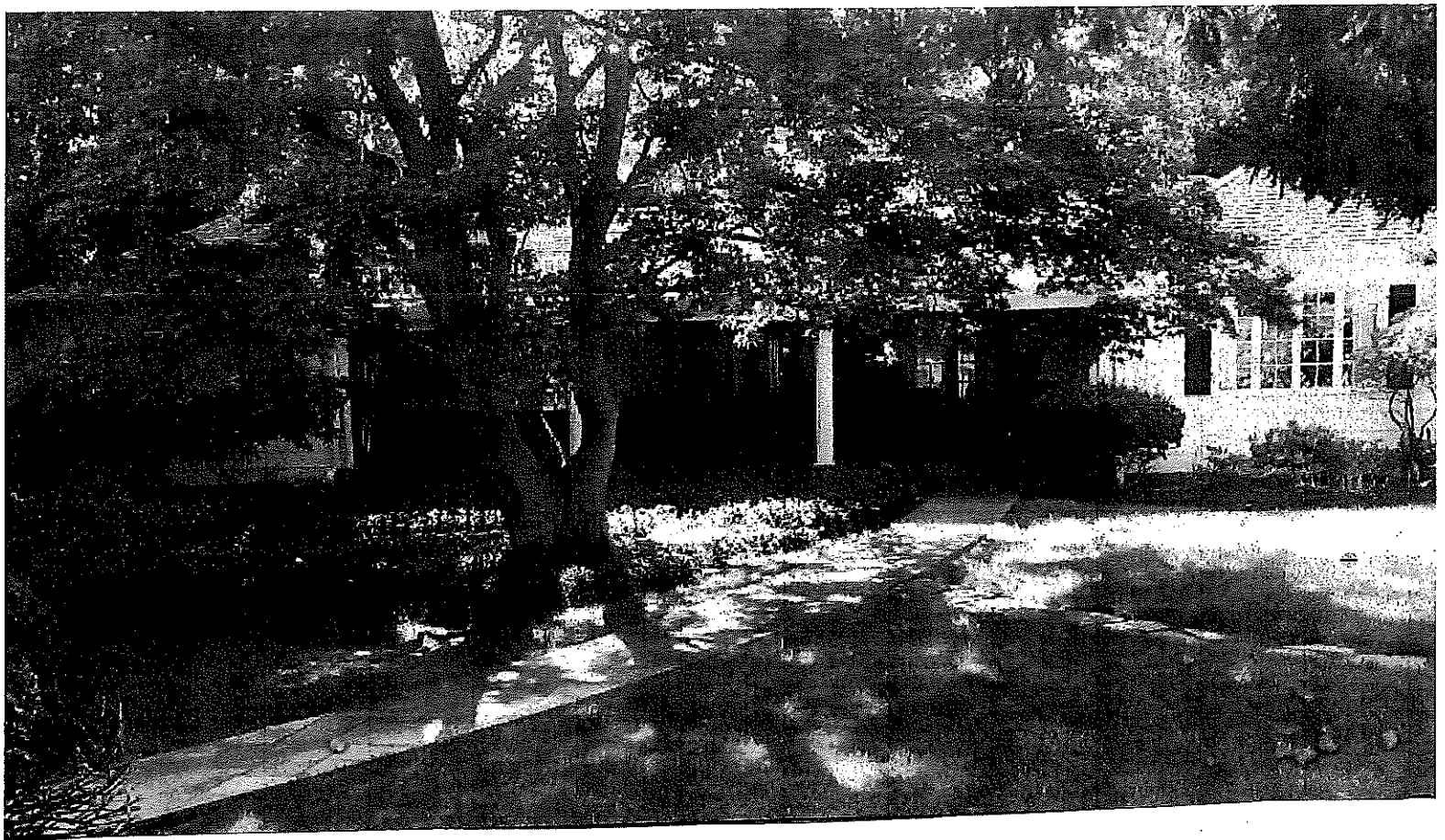
The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16), and The Trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #15
34 The Trail
Block 805, Lot 59
Classification: Contributing

One story 1930's dwelling with late Colonial Revival characteristics, clapboard siding, casement windows and a long recessed front porch with Doric columns. Contributing structure due to age (50+ years) and representation of the late Colonial Revival Style in the district.

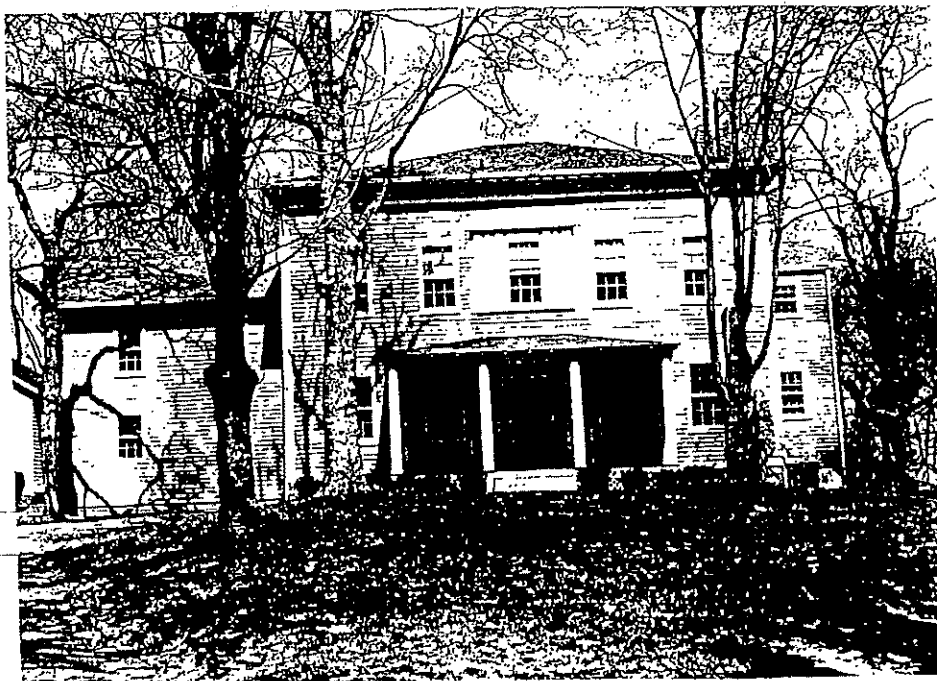
The land upon which this house was built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16), and The Trail was the driveway into the property. This house appears to have been the first one built along The Trail after the property was subdivided.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #16
Charles I. Hendrickson House (Locustwood)
28 The Trail
Block 805, Lot 62
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #361 MCHSI #1331-3-27

Substantial Greek Revival house constructed in 1832 with 1845 additions. The five bay center-hall plan main block is two stories with low hip roof and four interior end chimneys; there are two story gabled wings on each end. The house rests on a stone foundation and is sided with clapboard. Major architectural features include a modillion cornice, a center window framed with paired Ionic pilasters and pronounced molded cornice, a three bay porch with Ionic columns and one of the best Greek Revival doorways in Monmouth County. The eight panel door has a classical tripartite enframement elaborated by fluted Ionic pilasters, vegetal molding, and hand-wrought tracery in the transom light and sidelights. Locustwood also included a number of outbuildings; a carriage house (now a garage) still stands west of the house and a stone foundation of a former barn remains at the top of the hill. The property originally extended from Kings Highway to north of Highway 35. The Trail was the driveway until the land was subdivided for houses in the mid-20th century.

Charles I. Hendrickson, member of a family of early Dutch settlers in Monmouth County, built this grand house in 1832 and lived there for the rest of his life. He was a prosperous merchant and a founding member of the Middletown Dutch Reformed Church. He was related to the first Cornelius Vanderbilt, and by marriage to James Schureman, one of the founders of the Theological Seminary of Rutgers University.



Site #16
Locustwood

Doorway detail:



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #17

35 The Trail

Block 807, Lot 27

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #29

One story, shingled ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

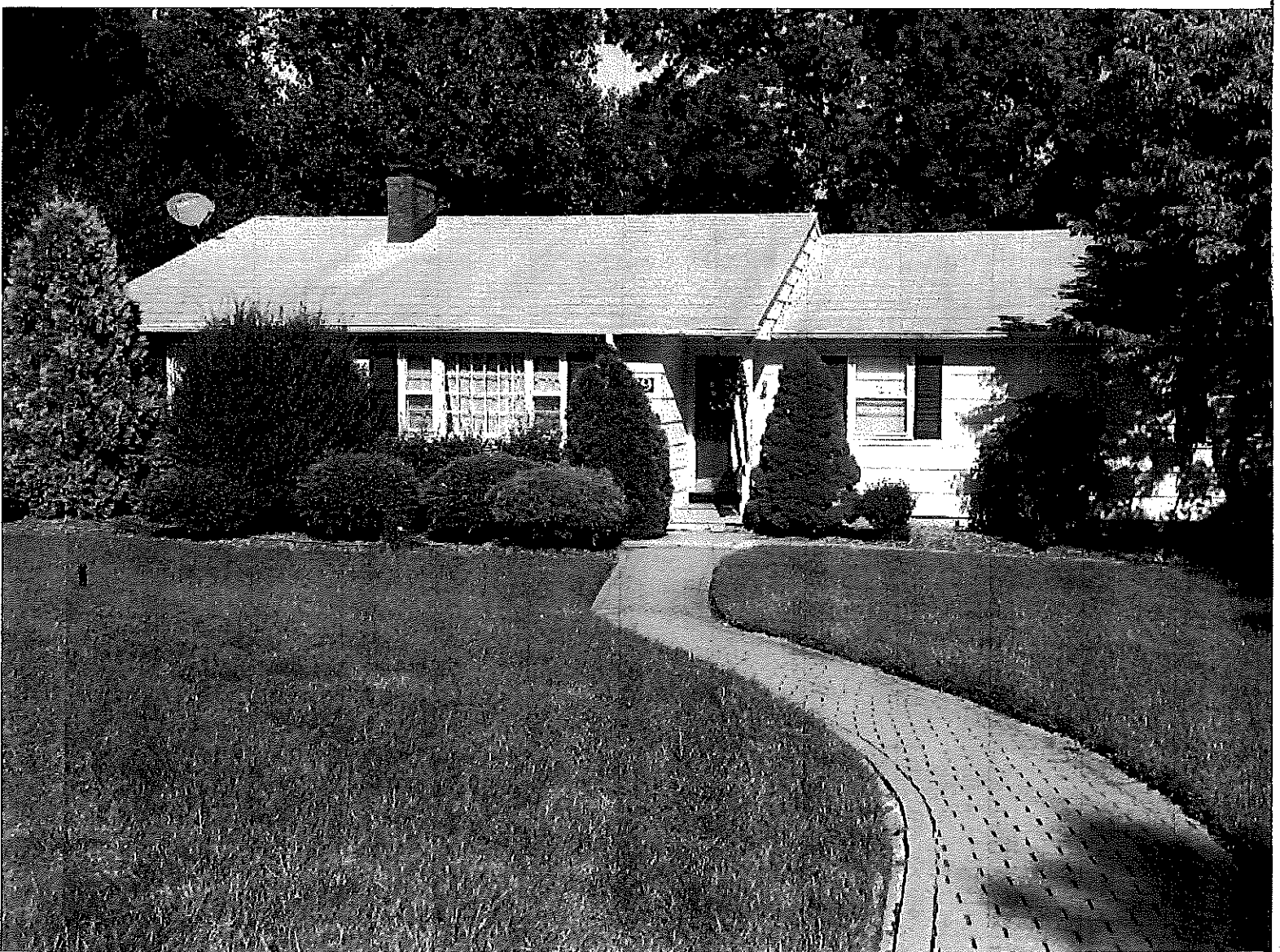
The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16) and The Trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #18
39 The Trail
Block 807, Lot 26
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLIC #30

One story shingled ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

The land upon which this house is built was formerly part of Locustwood (Site #16) and the The Trail was the driveway into the property.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #19
Christ Church Parking Lot
Kings Highway
Block 807, Lots 22 and 23
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #27 & 28

Partially wooded lot now used for parking by Christ Episcopal Church. Formerly part of lands belonging to Locustwood (Site #16), this site has been vacant as far back as the early 19th century. Property contributes to historic village character as long-existing open space.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #20
Baptist Church Sunday School
75 Kings Highway
Block 807, Lot 21
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #24

Simple vernacular Gothic building which appears to date from the late 19th century. According to the Old First Church, this structure originally was located on Conover Avenue (se corner of Liberty Street), and belonged to the Women's Christian Temperance Union. About 1900 the Baptist church purchased the building and moved it to its present site for use as a Sunday School (now called Fellowship Hall). Constructed on a three bay by four bay rectangular plan, with a later (20th century) wing on the east side. The exterior is sided with clapboard and with flush vertical boards on the gable end. Major architectural features include the large triangular-headed windows and pilastered double-leaf doorway with transom light and gabled portico.

Source: Evelyn Hartmann, Old First Church



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #21

First Baptist Church of Middletown
69 Kings Highway
Block 807, Lot 21

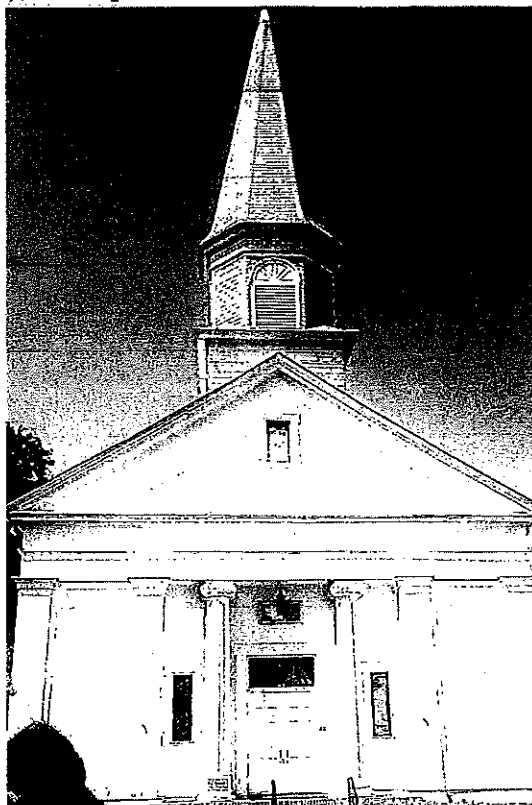
Classification: Key

Reference: MTLTLC #23

MCHSI #1331-3-11

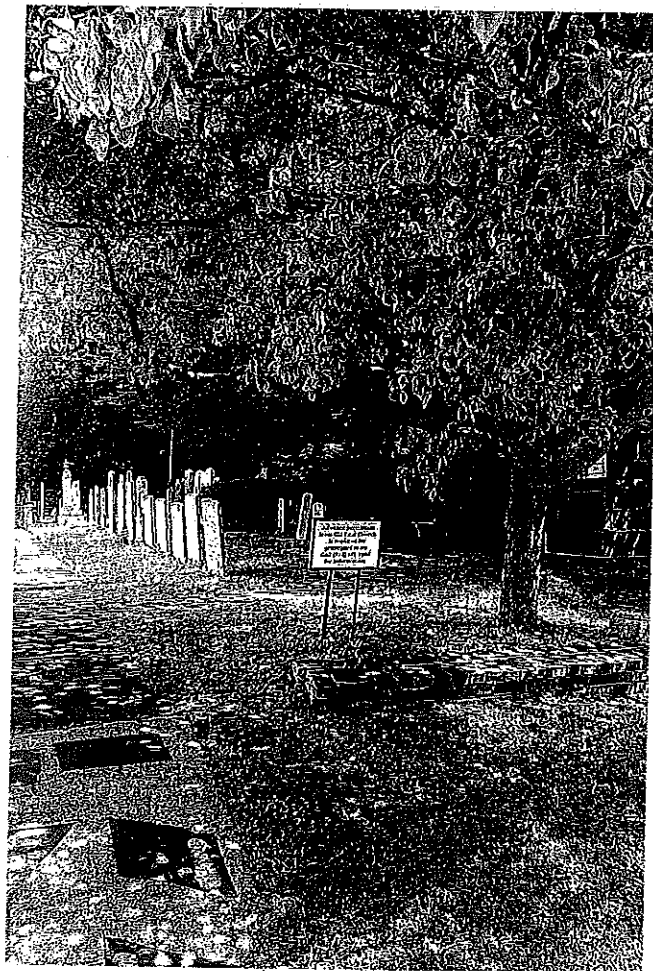
Greek Revival church constructed in 1832 by builder Oliver Sprout; the date of erection and builder's name are inscribed in a marble tablet above the doorway. In 1857, the church was enlarged to its present size of 45 feet by 84 feet and alterations to the façade were made. The rectangular plan structure has a pedimented gable roof topped by an octagonal steeple on a square base with round-headed louvers and dentiled frieze. The dominant feature is the pilastered temple-like façade with fluted Ionic columns flanking a central transomed doorway. The façade is clad with narrow vertical boards (formerly flush horizontal boards), while the rest of the building is wood shingled; the foundation consists of stone and brick. The rectangular windows on the five side bays originally were double-hung sash with shutters, and were later replaced by the existing stained glass.

The First Baptist Church of Middletown (Old First Church) was organized in 1688 and is the oldest Baptist congregation in New Jersey. This is the third meeting house. The Baptists, who made up a majority of Middletown's first settlers, first met in a private house but soon erected a small meeting house on this site which was used until 1734. On April 27, 1734, Robert Hartshorne deeded to the church a gift of land adjoining the lot on which the old meeting house stood, and in that year the congregation built a new church 32 by 42 feet in size. The second structure was torn down in 1832, when the present house of worship was erected. "Celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Middletown" (1888); Ellis, p. 527-531.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #22
Baptist Church Cemetery
69 Kings Highway
Block 807, Lot 20
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #22

The stones in this church cemetery are in fairly good condition. They are dated from the 1800s
And contain the names of many of the earliest settlers in Middletown.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #23

William Murray House

65 Kings Highway

Block 807, Lot 19

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLT #21

MCHSI #1331-3-10

The earliest section of this house was built about 1780 by William Murray, who purchased this property in that same year from farmer John Sock for \$9,000. In addition to farming, Murray ran a store in the rear wing of the house. In sixteen months beginning in July 1815, his accounts showed gross sales of \$4,995 for wool, butter, eggs, salt meats and spices (see Book Y, Hall of Records). Murray served as Director of the State Bank of Middletown and Trustee of the First Baptist Church and was, at one time, Postmaster. The house was moved back from Kings Highway onto a new foundation in 1809 and remained in the Murray family until 1880, when it was acquired by Charles Courdert, a New York lawyer and son of an officer under the first Napoleon. In 1904, Mr. Greenwood purchased the house and moved it back to its present site.

The two and a half story house has a five bay rectangular plan with a rear ell; the original 1780 section comprises the three bays on the west end and has a side-hall Georgian plan. During the early 20th century, the house was expanded to five bays and the large columned veranda, gabled dormer, and French doors on the first story were added. Other major features include a fieldstone and brick foundation, wood shingle siding, two interior end chimneys and end ridge chimney, 6/6 sash windows, and a wide pilastered entry with paneled door, tracery sidelights and transom light. An undated photo in the collections of the Monmouth County Historical Association shows the original three bay Georgian house with a sizable one story wing on the east end, and a small gabled portico over the door.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #24
63 Kings Highway
Block 807, Lot 18
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #19

One story wood shingled ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #25

Richard Hartshorne House

61 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 12

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLC #18

MCHSI #1331-3-9

This house is among the oldest in Middletown Village. The original section built in the late 17th century, was removed in the late 19th century. The existing house is essentially an 18th century structure with 19th century additions and alterations. Ellis' history (page 525-26) states that Richard Hartshorne acquired land in Middletown Village before 1699, and soon after 1703 moved to Middletown and built the house now standing, where he resided until his death in 1722. The property was owned by Jacob Covenhoven in the late 18th century and bought by William Murray in 1815; it remained in the Murray family until 1880, when purchased by Charles Coudert (see also site #23).

The rectangular main block is one and a half stories with a gable roof, two interior end chimneys, five bay façade, 12/12 sash windows, a simple central doorway, and a foundation of fieldstone and brick. According to the present owners, the older kitchen wing, which was the 17th century part of the house, was demolished by Coudert in the late 19th century and replaced with the small existing east wing. The exterior was formerly shingled but is now clad with novelty shiplap siding.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #26

Baptist Parsonage

59 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 13

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLC #17 MCHSI #1331-3-8

This c. 1875 dwelling was the Baptist parsonage in 1878. It is Gothic Revival Style and has a two and a half story three bay rectangular plan with rear wings. Major features include the steep cross gable roof with box cornice, two interior end chimneys, brick foundation, clapboard siding, 2/2 sash windows with pronounced cornices, triangular-headed gable windows, double-leaf door with segmental arch transom light and three bay porch with arched brackets and drop pendants.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #27
Hartshorne Cemetery
Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 14
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #16

Richard Hartshorne (see site #25) set aside his pear orchard as a family burying ground. He died in 1722, and he and his wife are buried here. Many of the older stones are dated 1747 through the 1880s.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #28

Franklin Academy

53 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 15

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLR #15

MCHSI #1331-3-7

This building was erected in 1836 by a stock company of local residents. The school operated as a private academy until 1851, when it was turned over to the school district and used as a public school until 1902. When the Board of Education sold it at auction, the buyer's daughter rented it to the village library and for a time the building served as a branch of the township public library. From 1942 to 1950, the academy was vacant, then purchased by Maltby D. and Thelma Jelliffe and converted into a residence.

The two story building is frame with shingles, 24' by 32', three bays by three bays, and has a one room plan with entrance hall. The exterior, and a good part of the interior, are original. Significant features: pedimented gable roof with square cupola, stone foundation, 12/12 sash windows with louvered shutters, and paneled double door with gabled portico. Documented in 1937 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS NJ-424).



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #29

J. E. Thomas House

51 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 16

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #14 MCHSI #1331-3-6

This c. 1880-1885 Vernacular Victorian residence is constructed on a two and a half story complex plan with multiple projecting bays, intersecting gable roof, interior chimney, brick foundation and clapboard siding. Other architectural features include symmetrically arranged 1/1 sash windows with pronounced cornices, full-length windows on first story, and elliptical arch entry with leaded glass transom and double-hung six panel door. The house is well conserved. J. E. Thomas is shown as the owner on the 1880 map, the earliest map on which this house appears.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #30

49 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 17

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #12

Colonial Revival dwelling built in the early 20th century (50+ years old). One and a half stories with gable roof, ridge chimney, wood shingle siding, 8/8 and 8/12 sash windows and center doorway with pilastered elliptical arch enframement. Good example of a "Cape Cod cottage."



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #31

47 Kings Highway

Block 811, Lot 18

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #11

Colonial Revival dwelling built in the early 20th century (50+ years old). Two story, center-hall plan with gable roof, 6/6 sash windows (grouped on first story) and central paneled doorway with sidelights and elliptical arch transom.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #32
45 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 19
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #10

One story stone-faced and vinyl sided ranch house built in the mid-20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #33
43 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 20
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #9

One and a half story "Cape Cod" style residence, built in 1942.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #34
41 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 21
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #8

One story clapboard sided ranch house built in 1951.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #35
39 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 22
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #7

One story stone-faced and clapboard sided ranch house built in 1955.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #36
Morford/Hendrickson House
35 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 28
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #6

Large Greek Revival/Italianate residence built in the second quarter of the 19th century by Thomas Morford, shipowner and shipbuilder. The oldest part of the house is said to be the rear one story wing, which is dated c. 1830. Sometime after 1851, the property became the home of Charles H. Morford (nephew of Thomas Morford and son of Charles Morford), who is shown as owner on the 1860, 1873 and 1889 maps.

The two and a half story house has a five bay by four bay rectangular center-hall plan with a gable roof, four interior end chimneys, stone and brick foundation and clapboard and shingle siding. Distinguishing features include the bracketed box cornice, 6/6 sash windows with pronounced cornices, quarter-round lights in the gable ends, Doric order porch, and Greek Revival doorway with Ionic pilasters, tracery sidelights and transom light.



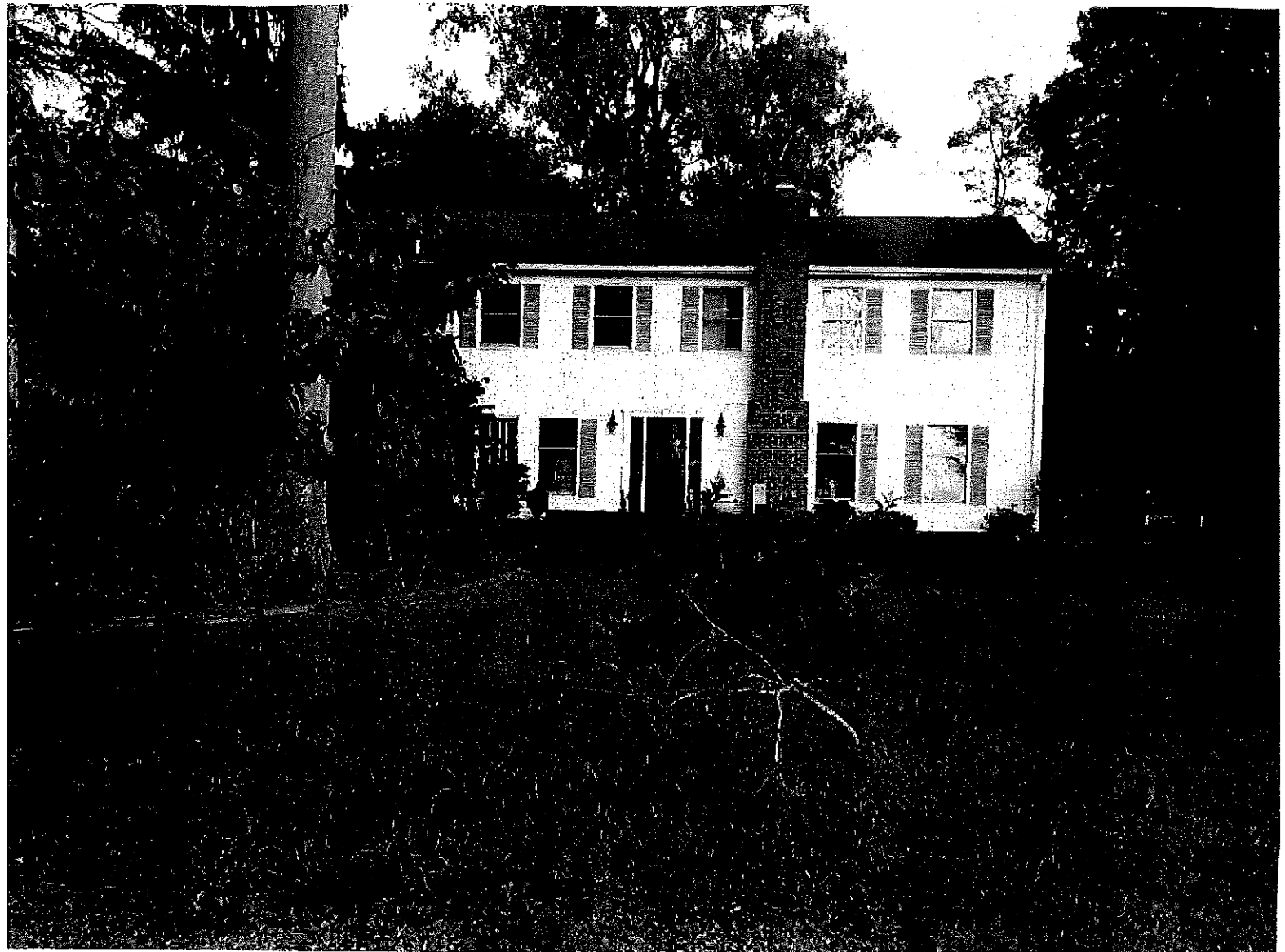
Middletown Village Historic District
Site #37
33 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 29
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #5

One story 1950's ranch house.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #38
31 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 30
Classification: Non-contributing
Reference: MTLC #3

One story vinyl-sided dwelling dating from the mid-20th century. 2nd story addition add in 1994.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #39
29 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 22
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #2

One and a half story vinyl-sided "Cape Cod" style residence, built 1952.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #40
27 Kings Highway
Block 811, Lot 32
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #1

One and a half story "Cape Cod" style residence built in 1941



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #41
Morford House
1 Penelope Lane
Block 815, Lot 7
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLIC #373

Although substantially altered in the 20th century, this house is believed to have late 18th or early 19th century origins as a Morford family dwelling. It has a narrow two and a half story rectangular plan, two bays wide and three bays deep, with a gable roof. The foundation appears to have been rebuilt, there have been fenestration changes, and vinyl siding covers the earlier wood siding and trim. The interior plan reveals that the main façade was formerly the west (Penelope Lane) side of the house; the main orientation, with a new entry, is now on the south side (Kings Highway) as pictured here.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #42
3 Penelope Lane
Block 815, Lot 6
Classification: Non-Contributing

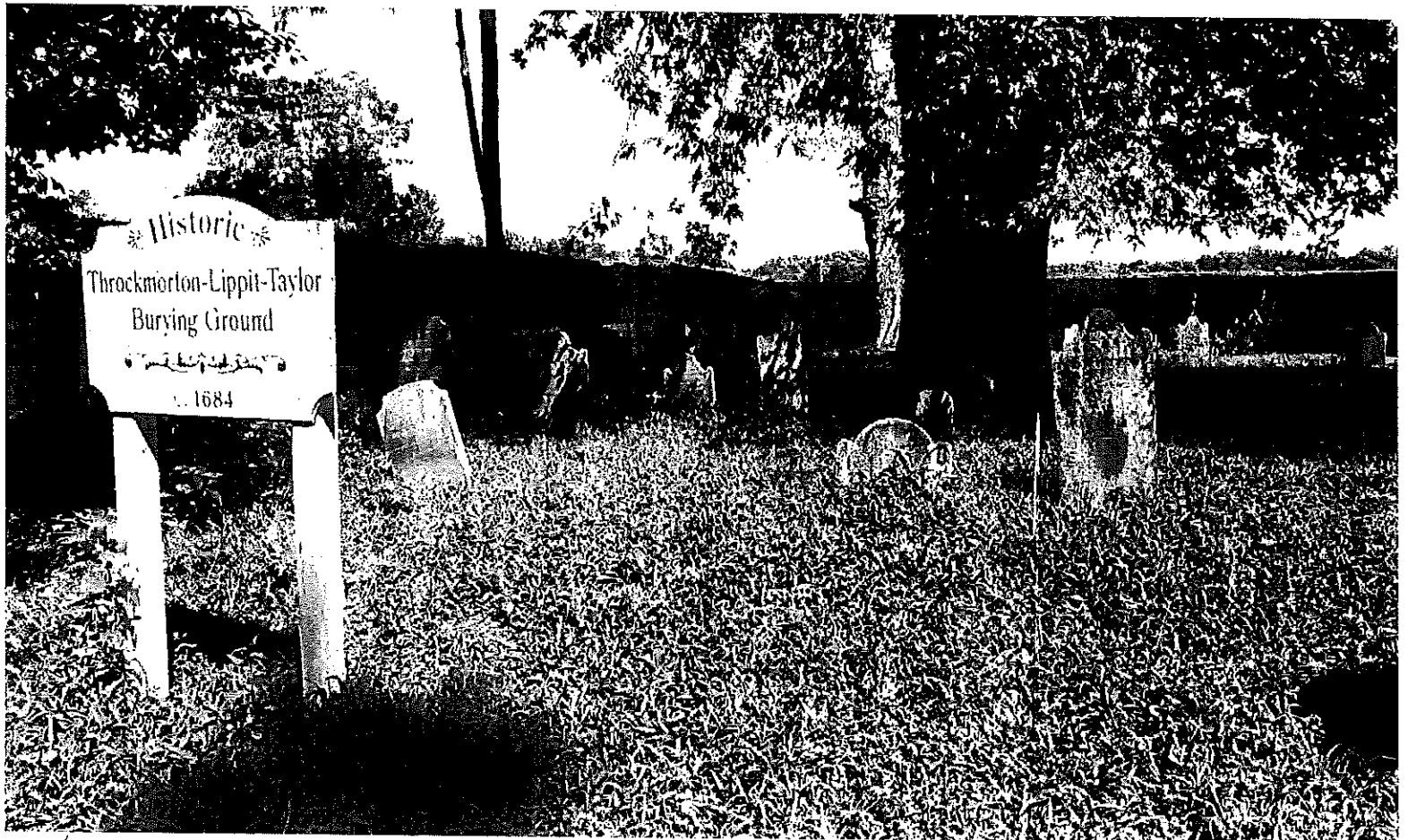
Demolished
7/2020

One story wood-sided ranch house dating from the mid -20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #43
Throckmorton/Lippit/Taylor Cemetery
Penelope Lane
Block 815, Lot 5
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #432

This site was first appropriated as a burying ground by mention in John Throckmorton's will in 1690, as "where my father lies buried." The property passed to his daughter Sara Lippit, then to their son John, who conveyed it to Edward Taylor in 1754. It is reputed that Penelope Stout is buried here.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #44
Ivy House Nursing Home
Kings Highway
Block 56, Lot 7
Classification: Contributing

Demolished January 2000

Now vacant and owned by the Township of Middletown, this rambling structure was formerly the Ivy House Nursing Home. The original section of the building, which is two and a half stores with a jerkinhead roof, was probably built in the late 19th century as a private residence. Several 20th century additions, which date from the property's use as a nursing home, surround the original structure.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #45

Hendrickson House

18 Kings Highway

Block 813, Lot 22

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLIC #521

This site is known as the Hendrickson House, reputedly dated c. 1830. It appears to be the property of G. C. Hendrickson on the 1873 map and Miss M. L. Hendrickson in 1889. Until recently, it was the Hilltop Nursing Home. Once a large single-family residence, the two and half story, five bay center-hall plan main block retains a dentiled cornice, classical door enframement with transom lights and sidelights, three bay porch with square posts, and some early 6/6 sash windows. There have been 20th century alterations to the fenestration on the first story and vinyl siding has covered and/or removed the original wood siding and trim.

The house was completely restored and renovated for office use in 2013.



Middletown Village Historic District

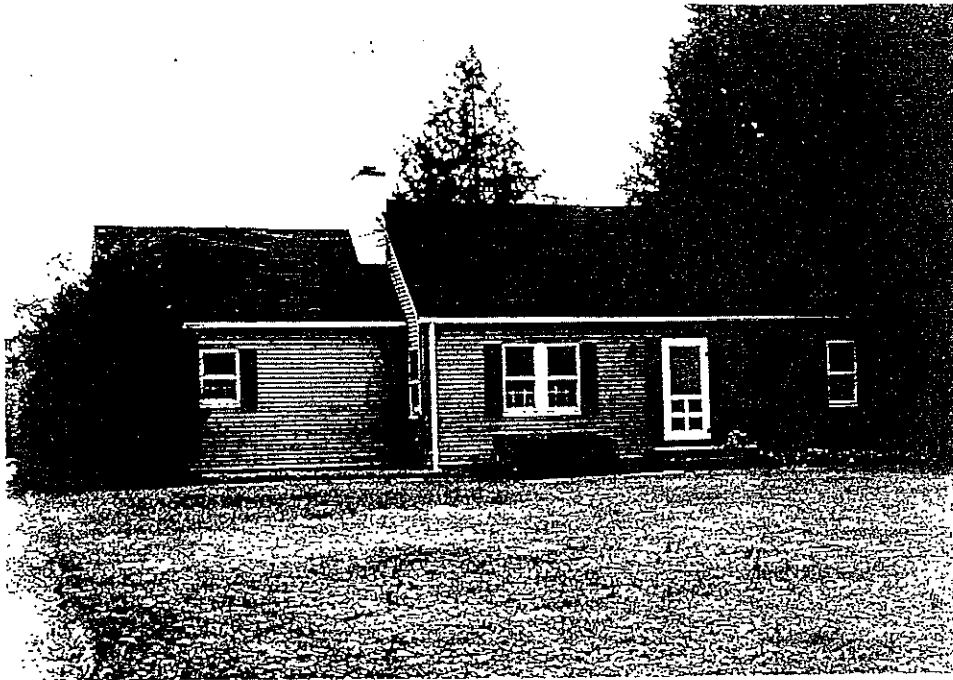
Site #46

20 Kings Highway

Block 813, Lot 21

Classification: Non-Contributing

One story vinyl-sided "Cape Cod" style residence dating from the mid-20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #47
22 Kings Highway
Block 813, Lot 20
Classification: Non-Contributing

One story stuccoed "Cottage Style" resident dating from the mid-20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #48

28 Kings Highway

Block 813, Lot 19

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #84

Four-square dwelling built c. 1920. Two and a half story square plan with hip roof, wood shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows and wraparound porch with shingled base and square posts.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #49

30 Kings Highway

Block 813, Lot 18

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #82

Colonial Revival residence built c. 1920. Two and a half story rectangular plan with gable roof, vinyl siding, 1/1 sash windows, projecting bay on main façade, and Doric columned porch.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #50
Hendrickson Cemetery
Kings Highway
Block 813, Lot 3
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #268

This burying ground adjoins the Presbyterian Cemetery, from which it is separated by a rail fence. It was set aside by the Hendricksons in recent years and contains but one small branch of the extensive family. One of the oldest stones dates to 1798. Now owned by the Township of Middletown



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #51
Presbyterian Cemetery
Kings Highway
Block 813, Lot 3
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #79

Right across the road from the Hendrickson-Morford House is the Presbyterian graveyard, where some of Middletown's first settlers are buried, including John Bowne. Contiguous to this graveyard is the Hendrickson family burying ground (site #50). Now owned by the Township of Middletown



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #52

Bartlett/Merriweather House

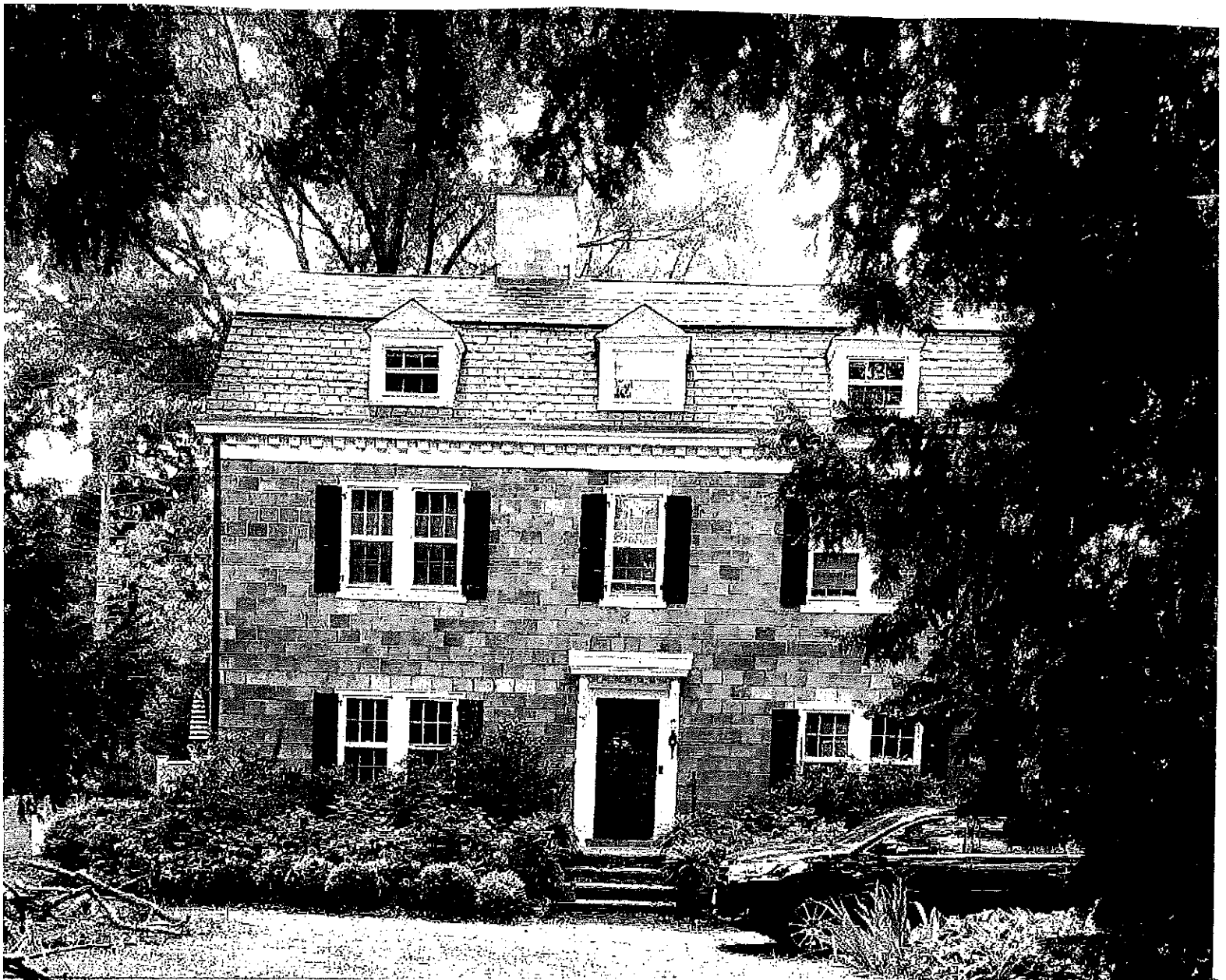
46 Kings Highway

Block 813, Lot 2

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #78

Georgian Revival residence built c. 1899. Two and a half story, three bay rectangular plan with gambrel roof, interior ridge chimney, concrete foundation and orange masonry block exterior. Other features include a modillion cornice, 6/6 sash windows with louvered shutters, and a pilastered doorway with heavy cornice and console brackets.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #53
Buffer Zone
Kings Highway
Block 812, Lot 1
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #77

Formerly part of the sizable Hendrickson Farm orchard on south side of Kings Highway, this 3.17 acre planted buffer area was created as part of the Pond View Development which was built in the mid-1980s. Owned by Middletown Township.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #54

64 Kings Highway

Block 807, Lot 53

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #265

Bungalow style residence built in the early 20th century (50+ years old). Two story rectangular plan with jerkinhead roof, paired 3/1 sash windows, central doorway with sidelights and full porch with Doric columns. Recently vinyl sided.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #55
66 Kings Highway
Block 809, Lot 52
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #76

Two story brick and wood shingled residence constructed in the 1970s.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #56

68 Kings Highway

Block 809, Lot 51

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #75

Bungalow dating from the early 20th century. One and a half story rectangular plan with hip roof, prominent dormer and exterior brick chimney on main façade, wood shingle siding and sash windows.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #57
70 Kings Highway
Block 809, Lot 50
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC ???

Bungalow dating from the early 20th century and substantially altered in the 1980s. One and a half story rectangular plan with hip roof, prominent dormer and 1/1 replacement sash windows. Prior to recent alteration, the house was sided with wood shingles and had a recessed front porch which has been enclosed with new windows and a door.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #58
72 Kings Highway
Block 809, Lot 49
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC

One story wood shingled ranch house built in 1952.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #59

74 Kings Highway

Block 809, Lot 43

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #71

Colonial Revival residence built c. 1930. Two story rectangular plan with gable roof, exterior brick chimney, vinyl siding, and one story wings on both ends. Three bay façade has 6/6 sash windows, two projecting bays, and a central doorway. Roughly contemporaneous with the house next door at 76 Kings Highway.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #60
76 Kings Highway
Block 809, Lot 42
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #70

Colonial Revival residence built c. 1925. Two story rectangular plan with gambrel roof, two interior end chimneys, wood shingle siding and sunporch on east end. Three bay façade has 6/6 sash windows and a central doorway with elliptical transom and gable portico.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #61
New Jersey Bell Telephone Company Building
78 Kings Highway
Block 809, Lot 41
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #69

Dutch Colonial Revival building constructed for the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company about 1930. In 1959, it was sold to the Township and used as a library until the present Township library on New Monmouth Road was erected in the early 1970s.

Subsequently, the building housed the Township Health Department, then auctioned in 1984 and sold to private owners for residential use. Major features include a gambrel roof main block and gabled wing with flared eave, 6/6 sash windows, corbelled brick chimney, and gabled portico. Exterior is vinyl sided. There was formally an interior mural by local artist Gay Goblentz, which has been removed to the Middletown Historical Society. (Source: Middletown Twp. Tax Assessor Files).



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #62

Edward Taylor House

82 Kings Highway

Block 808, Lot 1.01

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLC #66 MCHSI #1331-3-12

Georgian style dwelling constructed about 1750 with later additions and alterations. The original house has a three bay side-hall plan with gambrel roof, long round-but shingles, stone foundation, 12/12 sash windows, narrow paneled door with tracery transom lights, and a second paneled door with transom light and hood on the opposite end. Late one and a half story gabled east wing has 6/6 sash windows and shed dormer with casement windows. The center gable with curved vergeboard and pointed-arch tracery window is a Gothic Revival alteration made between 1840 and 1860. The portico with slender square posts is also 19th century addition.

This is one of four early Taylor homes still standing in Middletown Village. Edward Taylor built the house on land conveyed to him by his father, George Taylor, in 1723. Eight generations of Taylors resided in this house, the last being Miss Rachel Taylor. Dr. Edward Taylor, a physician and descendant of the original owner, lived in the house from the 1820s to the 1880s. Dr. Taylor practiced medicine from 1826 to about 1874 when he retired. It was probably Dr. Taylor who made the Gothic Revival changes to the original Georgian house. On the 1889 county atlas, Henry Taylor is shown as owner. The Marquis deLafayette is reputed to have visited this house. In 1920, it was known as the "Boxwood Tea Room."



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #62A

84 Kings Highway

Block 808, Lot 1.02

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC

Originally part of the Dr. Edward Taylor lot (Site 62), the lot was subdivided in the early 1990s. The one-story ranch style house was built in 1994.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #63

Sheep House

8 Church Street

Block 808, Lot 2

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #67 MCHSI #1331-3-1

This house was built about 1834 on property owned by the Taylor family, adjacent to the Edward Taylor home at 82 Kings Highway. The house was known as Dr. Taylor's Sheep House or tenant-farmer house. It may have been built by Dr. Edward Taylor Sr., the sixth generation of the family, or his son Dr. Edward Taylor Jr. Both men practiced medicine together and were of great service to the village and surrounding area. It is a two story I-house with rear ell, gable roof, two interior end chimneys and one exterior end chimney, shiplap siding, and full porch with Doric columns. The four over five bay façade has 12/12 and 6/6 sash windows and a central paneled door.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #64

Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery

90 Kings Highway

Block 804, Lot 11

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLN #62

MCHSI #1331-3-13

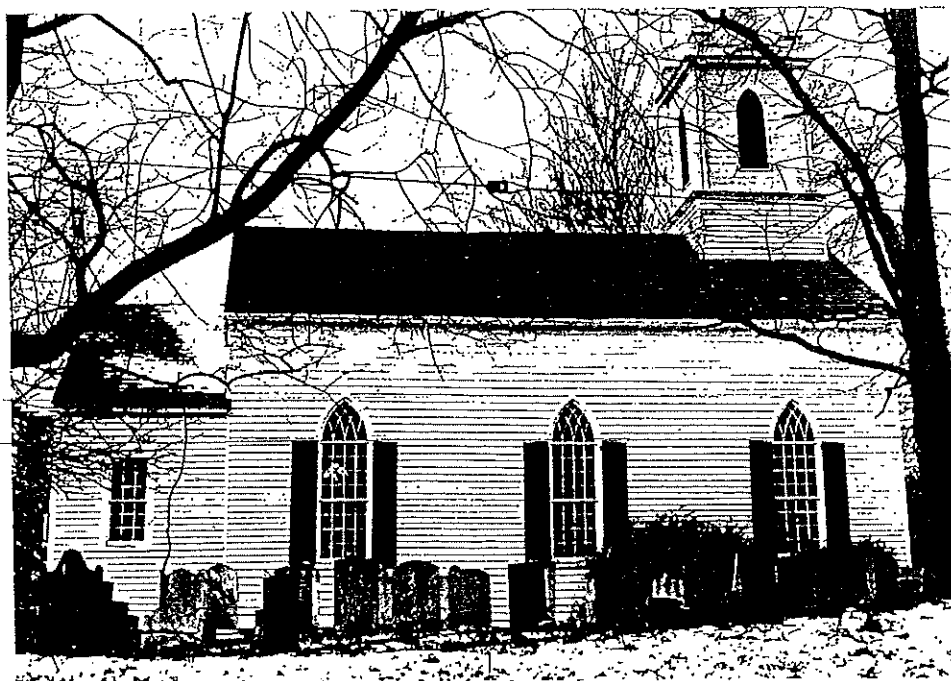
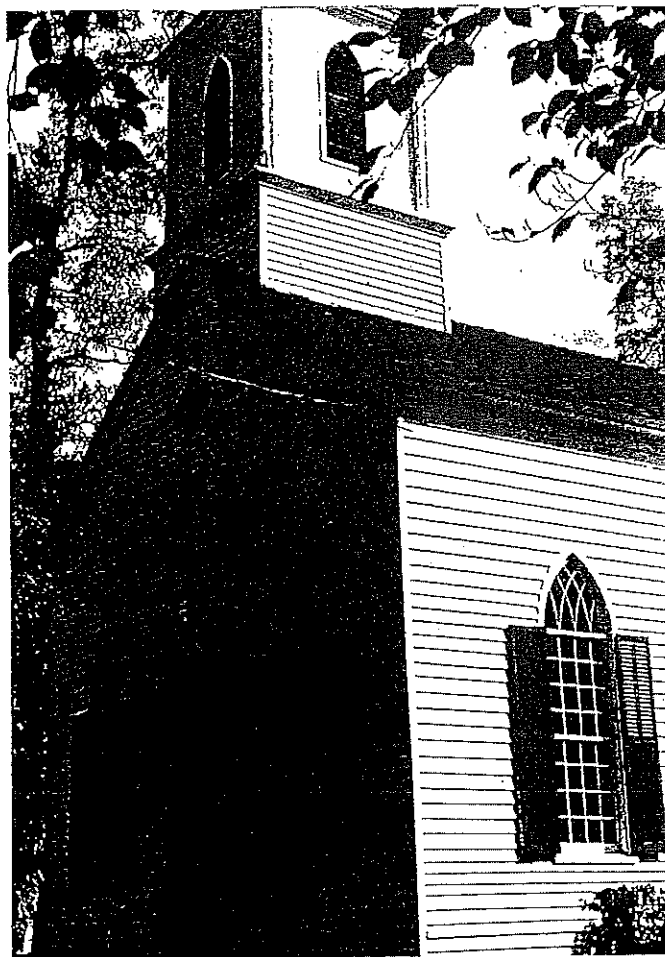
Christ Church was organized in 1702 and was part of Christ Church of Shrewsbury until 1854 when an act of the New Jersey Legislature separated them; the parish is one of the oldest in the State of New Jersey. The 1836 building stands on the site of a 1680 blockhouse and envelopes the frame of the previous church constructed c. 1746. It is sometimes called "The Pirate Church" for several reasons. When the blockhouse became courthouse and jail, villagers mobbed a trial held there for a confessed pirate, freed him and jailed the court authorities, including the Governor, while the pirate escaped. A crack in the form of a cross reputedly kept reappearing above the pulpit and the legend grew that it had been cut there by Captain Kidd; when the congregation put up a former education building they called "Leeds Hall" after a benefactor so prosperous he was reputed to have been a cohort of Captain Kidd.

The Gothic Revival structure has a one story three bay by three bay rectangular plan, 28' by 52', with a rear addition, gable roof, and square inset steeple with four pyramidal spires. The exterior is sided with clapboard and the foundation is made of fieldstone and brick. Major features include 16/16 sash windows with tracery in pointed-arch heads, quatrefoil vent in front gable, and a tall paneled door surmounted by a pointed-arch transom light with tracery. Burial ground adjacent.

Source: *Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS-NJ-325)*, 1937

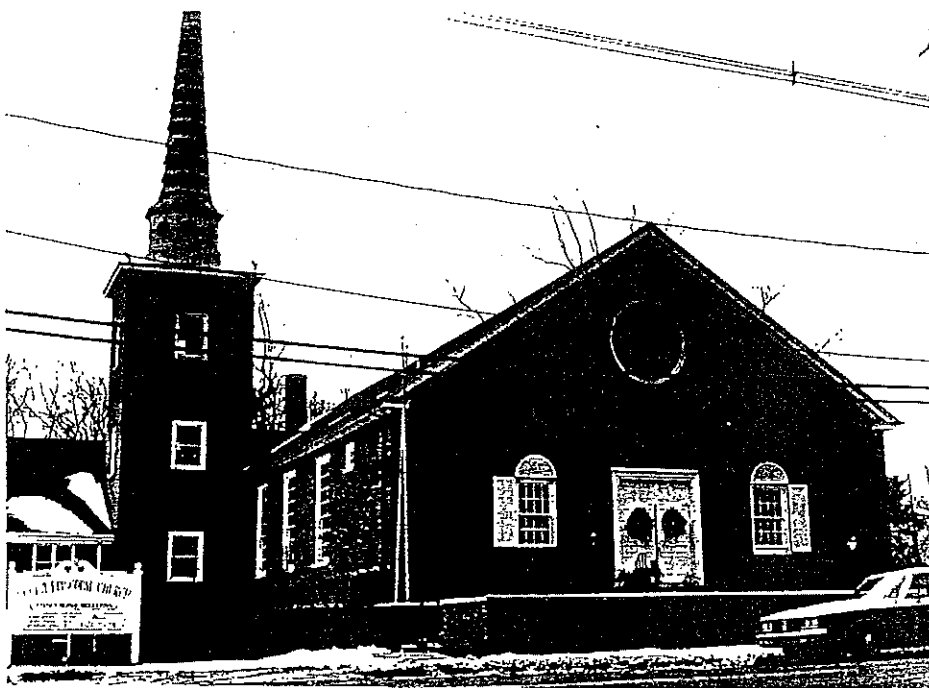


Middletown Village Historic District
Site #64
Christ Episcopal Church
Continuation Sheet



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #65
Christ Episcopal Church (New)
96 Kings Highway
Block 804, Lot 2
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #57 & 244

Late Colonial Revival church and religious education building constructed in 1965.
L-plan brick structure features a three story square bell tower with tall spire.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #66
Christ Church Thrift Shop
96 Kings Highway
Block 804 Lot 2
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #243

One story stucco and brick stone building dating from the mid-20th century. Storefront has been enclosed and sided; retains decorative tiles above.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #67

Andy's Market/Peppercorns

100 Kings Highway

Block 804, Lot 1

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #56

One story stucco and brick store building dating from the mid-20th century. On site of older 19th century store.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #68

1 Church Street

Block 804, Lot 12

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #63

One of a group of dwellings along Church Street erected by Christ Episcopal Church in the 1870s. Simple two and a half story gable-front house with box cornice, triangular gable windows, asbestos shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows and enclosed front porch (originally open with turned posts).



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #69
3 Church Street
Block 804, Lot 13
Classification: Non-Contributing
Reference: MTLC #64

One of a group of dwellings along Church Street erected by Christ Episcopal Church in the 1870s. Originally resembled house at 5 Church Street, with a narrow two bay second story and gable front; upper stories have been radically altered recently. Retains clapboard siding and porch with turned posts.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #70

5 Church Street

Block 804, Lot 14

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #65

One of a group of dwellings along Church Street erected by Christ Episcopal Church in the 1870s. Simple two and a half story gable-front house with box cornice, clapboard siding, 2/2 sash windows; porch has been partially enclosed but original turned posts are still visible.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #71

7 Church Street

Block 804, Lot 15

Classification: Contributing

One of a group of dwellings along Church Street erected by Christ Episcopal Church in the 1870s. Simple two and a half story gable-front house with box cornice, clapboard and wood shingle siding, 2/2 sash windows (gable window has bordered sash), and full porch with turned posts.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #72

9 Church Street

Block 804, Lot 16

Classification: Contributing

Colonial Revival residence built c. 1890-1910. Two and a half story rectangular plan with gable roof, multiple projecting bays and wraparound porch. Wood shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows, box cornice and Doric order porch columns.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #73
14 Liberty Street
Block 804, Lot 9
Reference: MCHSI #1331-3-20

One story four bay cottage dating from the early to mid-19th century, originally three bays with later one bay addition (with paired window) on east end. House has gable roof, ridge chimney, brick foundation, clapboard siding, and 6/6 and 6/1 sash windows (older ones have single-leaf batten shutters).



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #74

12 Liberty Street

Block 804, Lot 8

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #61

Vernacular Victorian residence built in the late 19th century. Two and a half stories with intersecting gable roof, composition shingle siding, 6/6 sash windows, and simple glazed door. Originally resembled the gable-front house next door at 10 Liberty Street; the addition to the east end, siding, changes to windows and doors, and removal of porch all date from the 20th century.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #75

10 Liberty Street

Block 804, Lot 7

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #60

Vernacular Victorian residence built in the late 19th century. Two and a half story gable-front rectangular plan with ridge chimney, clapboard and patterned shingle siding, and brick foundation. Two bay façade has 2/2 and 1/1 sash windows, a triangular-headed gable window and simple doorway with gabled portico.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #76

8 Liberty Street

Block 804, Lot 6

Classification: Contributing

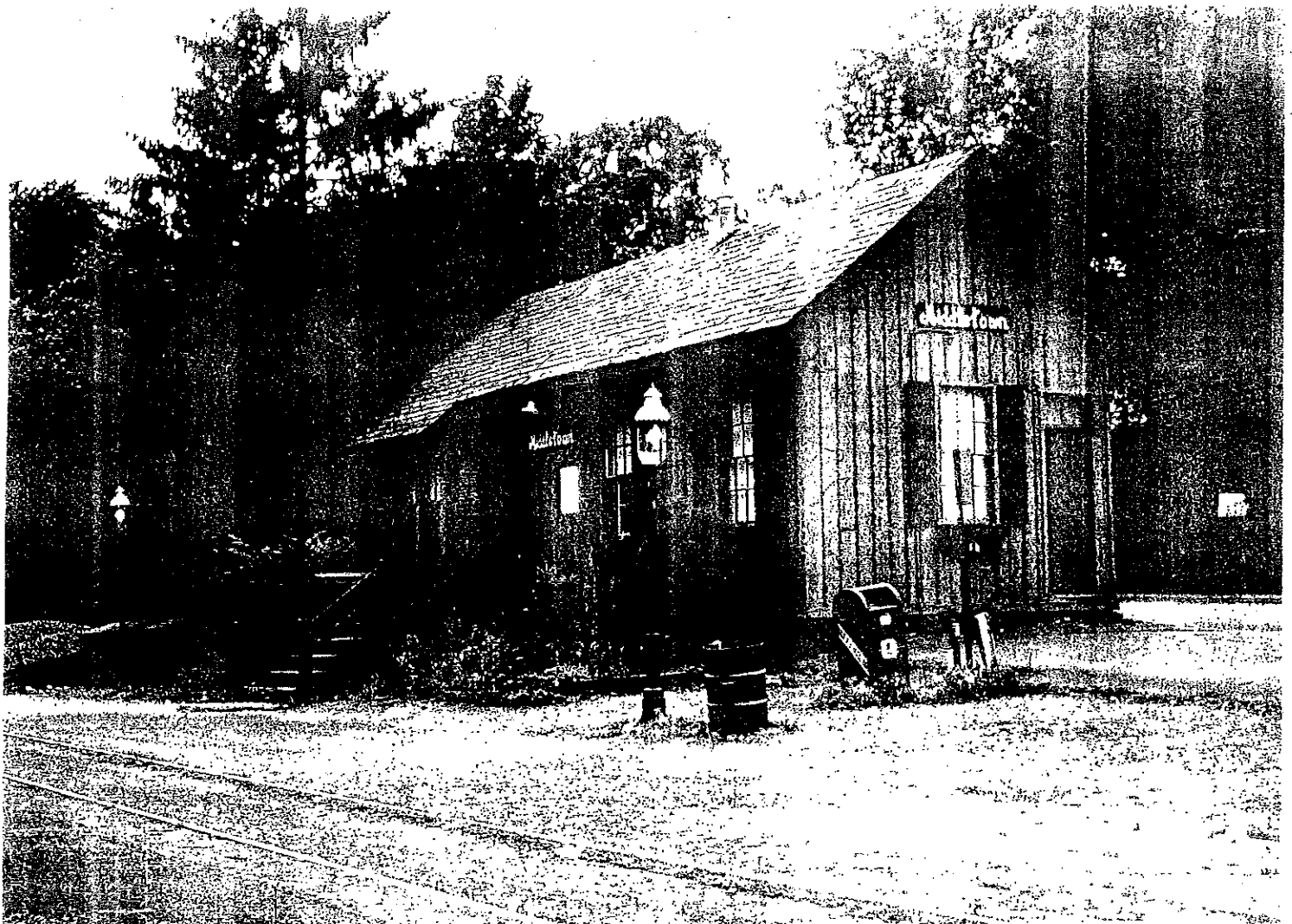
Reference: MTLC #59

Vernacular Victorian dwelling built in the mid 19th century. Two and a half story I house plan with rear wing, gable roof, vinyl siding (originally clapboard, 2/2 sash windows, transomed doorway, and full porch with turned posts.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #77
Middletown Passenger Depot
Railroad Avenue
Block 802, Lot 1
Classification: Contributing

Built in 1876 by the New York and Long Branch Railroad to service the village of Middletown, this small wooden depot has a one-story rectangular plan measuring 16' by 41'. The gable roof is trimmed with small scalloped vergeboard, and the exterior is sided with vertical board and batten. Windows are 6/6 sash. There are entrances on both the north and south sides; the doorway on the north façade has a small gabled portico. Now owned by the Township of Middletown. The depot was relocated to its present location and restored in 1992.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #78
416 Conover Avenue
Block 804, Lot 5
Classification: Contributing

Four-square dwelling built in the early 20th century. Two and a half story square main block with rear wing, hip and gable roof, vinyl and wood shingle siding, 1/1 sash windows, recent reproduction doorway replacement, and wraparound porch with Doric columns.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #79
Conover House
408 Conover Avenue
Block 804, Lots 3 and 4
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #58 MCHSI #1331-3-4

This house was owned by the Conover family at the time of the 1889 Wolverton map. Built c. 1880-1885, the Vernacular Victorian dwelling has a two and a half story T-plan with a porch on three sides. The cross gable roof has late tiles, vergeboard trim and a corbelled brick chimney. Other distinguishing features include the clapboard and fishscale shingle siding, 1/1 and 2/1 sash windows and projecting bays with louvered shutters and turned porch posts.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #80

415 Conover Avenue

Block 801, Lot 10

Classification: Contributing

Vernacular Victorian dwelling built c. 1880. Two and a half story gable-front rectangular plan with symmetrical three bay façade, side hall entry, composition shingle siding (originally clapboard), and brick foundation. Windows are ½ sash with gable lintels; simple four-panel door has rectangular two-light transom. Front porch has been removed. House was constructed between the time of the 1878 and 1889 maps; appears to be the property of S. Frost in 1889.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #81

411 Conover Avenue

Block 801, Lot 9

Classification: Contributing

Vernacular Victorian dwelling with Italianate elements built c. 1880. Two and a half story gable-front L-plan with symmetrical three bay façade, intersecting gable roof and two ridge chimneys. The foundation is constructed of brick, and the original clapboard exterior is now sided with vinyl. Windows include 1/1 sash (some with gable lintels), round arch gable windows, and full-length windows on the first story of main façade. Doorway has rectangular two-light transom; front porch has been removed. Historical map coverage is ambiguous; appears to be the property of J. F. S. in 1889.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #82

407 Conover Avenue

Block 801, Lot 8

Classification: Contributing

Italianate dwelling dating from the late 1870s or early 1880s. Two and a half story gable-front rectangular plan with symmetrical three bay façade, side-hall entry, composition shingle siding (originally clapboard), and brick foundation. Distinguishing features include the gable brackets, paired round-arch gable window, 2/2 sash windows with cornices, and double-leaf door with rectangular transom light. Front porch has been removed. Historical map coverage is unclear; maybe have been the property of A. E. Newton in the 1880s.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #83

403 Conover Avenue

Block 801, Lot 7

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #54

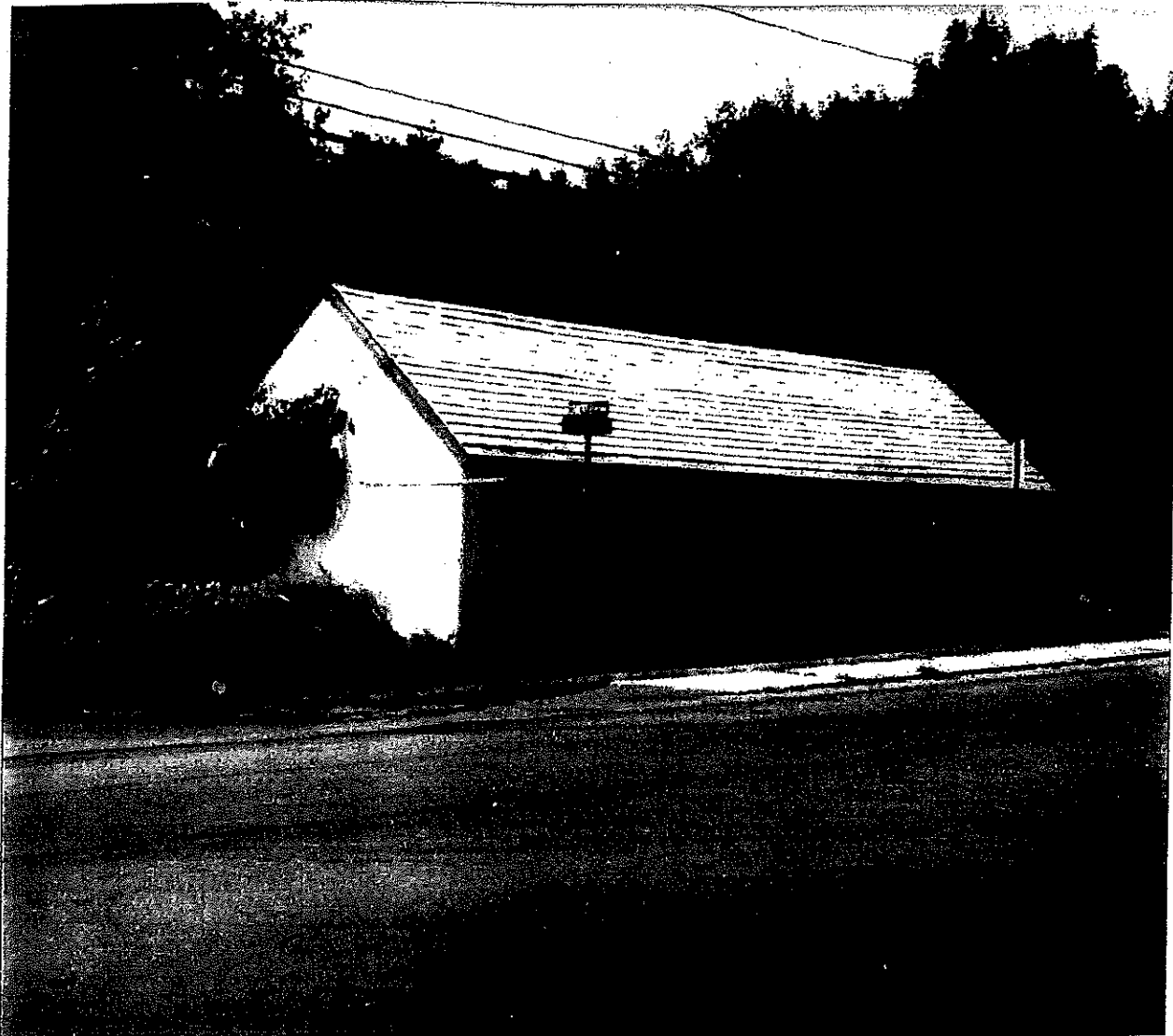
This small vernacular dwelling is historically associated with the blacksmith shop next door (Site #84). The earlier portion of the house, probably dating from the third quarter of the 19th century, is the two and a half story gable-front section on the south end; the larger side wing is a later addition. Older portion has vergeboard trim, 2/2 sash windows, exterior brick chimney (later addition) and gabled portico over simple door.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #84
Blacksmith Shop
Corner Kings Highway and Conover Avenue
Block 801, Lot 7
Classification: Key
Reference: MTLC #55 MCHSI #1331-3-2

Known as the William Truax Blacksmith and Wheelwright Shop, this c. 1825 structure is one of the oldest and best surviving blacksmith shops in Monmouth County. It is a low one story building of brick construction with a later stucco veneer; its gable roof is covered with wood shingles. On the south elevation there are three small windows and two doors; the doors are rough-sawn vertical board with strap hinges, and there are similar shutters on the windows. William Truax (sometimes spelled Truex), owner of the shop and a captain in the Mexican War (1846-1848), drilled the local militia along Kings Highway and used his shop as temporary headquarters for training troops.

The blacksmith shop is now (2007) part of Site #83. The current owners of 403 Conover Avenue own and maintain the blacksmith shop.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #85

110 Kings Highway

Block 801, Lot 6

Classification: Contributing

Queen Anne Style residence dating from the early 1880s. Constructed on a two and a half story complex plan, this clapboard and shingled house has a two-tiered porch and a porte-cochere. Retains many early features, including the bordered sash windows and multi-pane fixed lights, decorative paneling in gable end, corbelled chimneys, double-leaf door (obscured by modern storm door), and turned posts and balustrade on porch.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #86

112 Kings Highway

Block 801, Lot 5

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #53

Now a residence, this appears to originally have been a carriage house or other auxiliary structure dating from the late 19th century. The building is comprised of a two story cross-gabled center section with wings on either side, and is sided with vinyl and vertical board. Windows are mostly 2/2 sash; there are some barn doors on the east wing façade. Historical maps are unclear as to the early ownership of the property.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #87

114 Kings Highway

Block 801, Lot 4

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #52

Vernacular Victorian residence built c. 1880. Two and a half story gable-front rectangular plan with turret and wraparound porch. Except for the removal of the top of the turret, this wood shingled house retains most of its early features, including 2/2 sash windows with cornices and louvered shutters, full-length 2/4 sash windows on first story, cornice trim, pilastered doorway and slender tapered porch posts. Appears on the 1889 map as the property of J. T. Osborn who may have been the original owner and builder.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #88

Old Reformed Church Parsonage

116 Kings Highway

Block 801, Lot 3

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLC #51 MCHSI #1331-3-15

This house served as the Dutch Reformed Church Parsonage from its construction in 1873 until 1890. It is a Vernacular Victorian clapboard-sided structure with a two and a half story complex plan and intersecting gable roof. The foundation and interior chimney are brick. Significant features include the slate tile roof, bracketed box cornice and vergeboard, 2/2 sash windows with cornices, full-length windows on first story, double projecting bay on east side, double-leaf door with broad transom light, and elaborate millwork trim on porch.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #89

Bowne House

120 Kings Highway

Block 800, Lot 4

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLT #49 MCHSI #1331-3-16

Built in the mid-19th century, this Vernacular Victorian house has a two and a half story rectangular plan with rear ell, symmetrical three bay facade, and cross gable roof with interior end chimneys. The foundation is constructed of fieldstone and the exterior is clapboard-sided. Windows include 6/6 sash, with segmental-arch and quarter round lights in the gables, the central pilastered doorway is approached through a columned porch. There was formerly a pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks which was replaced by a covered vehicular bridge in 1988. The family of George Bowne owned the property on the 1873, 1878, and 1889 maps.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #90

Wilson/Bowne House

2 Red Hill Road

Block 800, Lot 3

Classification: Key

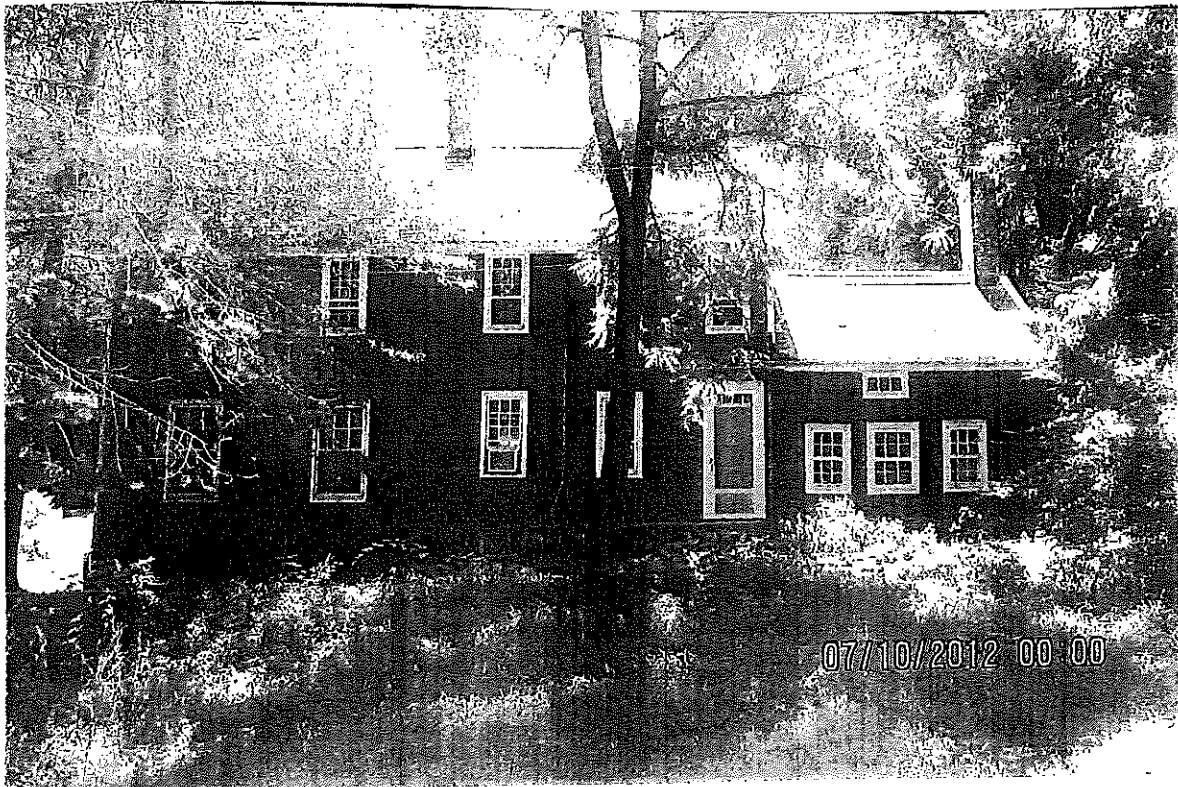
Reference: MTLC #48

MCHSI #1331-3-24

Local tradition dates the one story west wing of this house to 1684 when reputedly it was the town "ordinary" or tavern. The Wilson family may have been the original or early owners of the property. Although the early history of the tavern is clouded, it is known that William Wilson (1766-c. 1838), a prominent local citizen who held several Township offices during his lifetime, kept a tavern here between about 1808 and 1836. Known at different times as "Rising Sun Tavern" and Rainbow Inn," the old taproom was the scene of a variety of local happenings, including elections and town meetings, and also served as a local stage stop. Sometime after Wilson's death, the property became the residence of George Bowne through marriage to one of William Wilson's daughters. Bowne, a prosperous owner of marl pits, is shown as the owner on all maps from 1851 through 1880. In the 1930s, the structure housed farm workers, and for a time one part was a laboratory where Frank Hayes invented the planetary transmission.

While the small west wing may indeed be the earliest part of the house, the two and a half story, five bay main block was built in at least two sections during the early to mid-18th century. The house is constructed on a fieldstone foundation, has slate tiles on the gable roof, a clapboard façade and long-cut shingles on the sides, and 9/6 and 6/6 sash windows.

Restored & rehab 2012



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #91
Red Hill Road
Block 800, Lot 1.03
Classification: Contributing

Vacant lot with narrow frontage on Red Hill Road. This land was part of an original Middletown Village town lot as laid out in 1667.

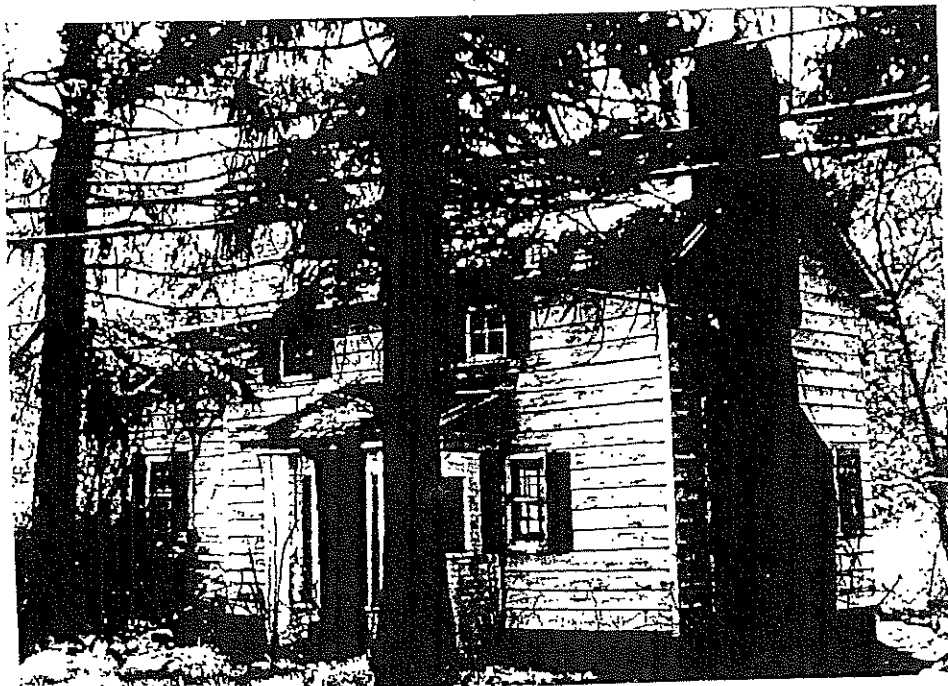
This lot was merged into Block 800, Lot 1.03 in 1999. Existing house constructed in 2000.

Middletown Village Historic District
Site #92
12 Red Hill Road
Block 800, Lot 1
Classification: Contributing

Small one and a half story vernacular house dating from the first half of the 19th century; comprised of a two over three bay rectangular main block with a one bay east wing and a rear lean-to. Features include a fieldstone foundation with stucco veneer, weatherboard siding, brick exterior chimney (20th c.), small 6/6 sash windows and 6-light knee wall windows. Entry obscured by 20th century bricked-in portico. Site is known locally as the Morris House; J. W. Morris appears to be the owner on the 1873, 1878 and 1889 maps.

A sizable house, shown as Taylor property on 19th century maps, formerly stood on the western end of this parcel at the bend in the road. The land was part of an original Middletown Village town lot as laid out by 1667.

The lot was subdivided in 2001 and the house demolished to make way for 2 new houses.



Demolished
New construction
2000

Middletown Village Historic District

Site #93

Taylor/Osborne House

107 Red Hill Road

Block 796, Lot 1

Classification: Contributing

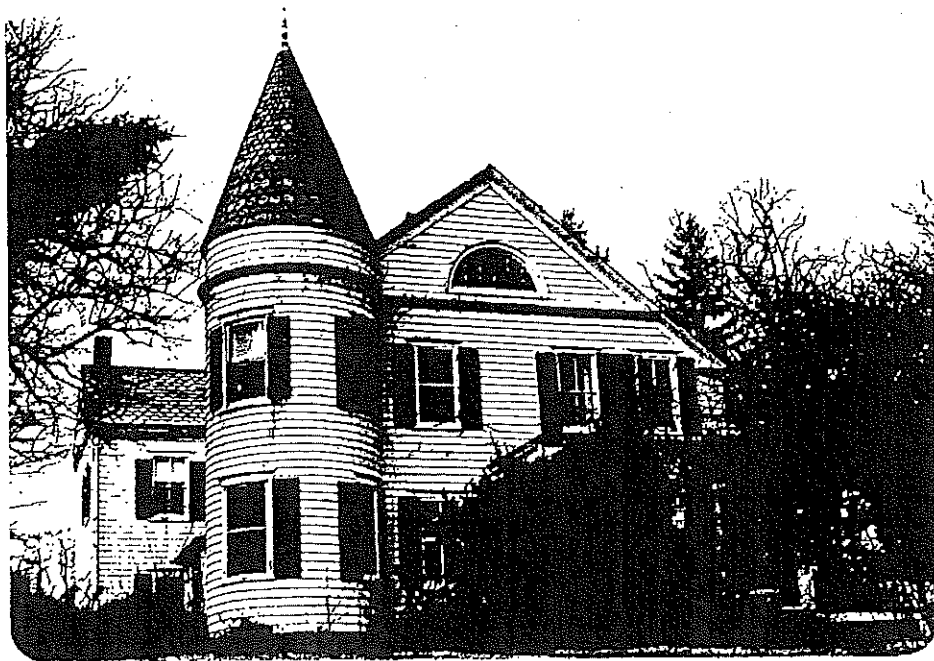
Reference: MTLC #352 MCHSI #1331-3-22

This location is known as "Ruckman's Hill," named after John Ruckman's original village outlot or poplar field lot; there was a signal beacon on this site at the time of the Revolutionary War. The earliest section of this house, the one and a half story two over three bay north wing, was built c. 1814 by Joseph Taylor, who obtained the land from his father John Taylor. The Taylors were among the first settlers in Middletown and figure prominently in its early history and development. Joseph Taylor's daughter Hannah married Ezra Osborn and they resided in this house throughout most of the 19th century. The main portion of the house was probably constructed by the Osbornes in the 1840s or 1850s. It is a two and a half story Greek Revival structure with a three bay side-hall plan, clapboard siding, 6/6 sash windows, quarter-round gable lights and a paneled door enframed with a narrow transom light and sidelights. The house, originally clapboard, has been recently re-sided with vinyl.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #94
Red Hill Road frontage of AT&T site
Block 795, Lot 5
Classification: Contributing

The eastern end of this parcel, fronting Red Hill Road, is historically part of early Middletown Village, and is situated between two historic structures (the Taylor/Osborne House and The First Store), and thus is of importance to the continuity of the historic district along Red Hill Road. The Beekman House, pictured below shortly before it was burned in 1981, formerly stood on this site facing Red Hill Road.



Middletown Village Historic District
Site #95
The First Store
Red Hill Road
Block 795, Lot 9
Classification: Contributing
Reference: MTLC #353 MCHSI #1331-3-21

Known as the First Store, this site reputedly was in continuous operation as a store from its construction until the mid-20th century. Although its early origins are unclear, it is known that Samuel Taylor operated the store in the 19th century; the building also housed the post office and a tailor's shop during that time. The store was a meeting place to discuss political and social issues of the day.

After the structure was partially destroyed by fire in 1981, the well-known Princeton architectural firm of Short and Ford prepared a study of the building in 1984 and an update in 1987. They aptly described the structure as "eccentric in form because it consists of two separate buildings." The two buildings have separate and contiguous walls at their juncture, and are set on a single foundation. The east wing is the older of the two buildings; structural evidence suggests that an 18th century construction date with 19th century alterations. Framing members, all hand-hewn, include heavy timber corner posts with K-braces and girts. Hand-split pine shakes on the roof have been preserved through the years by the tarpaper covering. The west wing, dating from the 19th century, has sawn framing including heavy timber corner posts. Rafters in both sections have mortised joints secured by wooden pegs. The large chimney in the newer wing is constructed of salt-glazed brick and soft mortar, and is still standing but in urgent need of repair due to the lack of flashing.

The First Store was demolished in 1995 to make way for 2 new houses.

The updated Short and Ford report of 1987 had estimated the cost of reconstruction and restoration would have been under \$500,000. They considered the First Store as "a picturesque and significant ingredient of the Red Hill historic streetscape." (*Short and Ford Architects, "Feasibility Study: Red Hill Road, Middletown Village Historic District" 1984, updated 1987*).

See following pages for photographs

Middletown Village Historic District
Site #95A
The First Store
Continuation Sheet



Present Appearance (1990)



Appearance in 1964

Middletown Village Historic District

Site #96

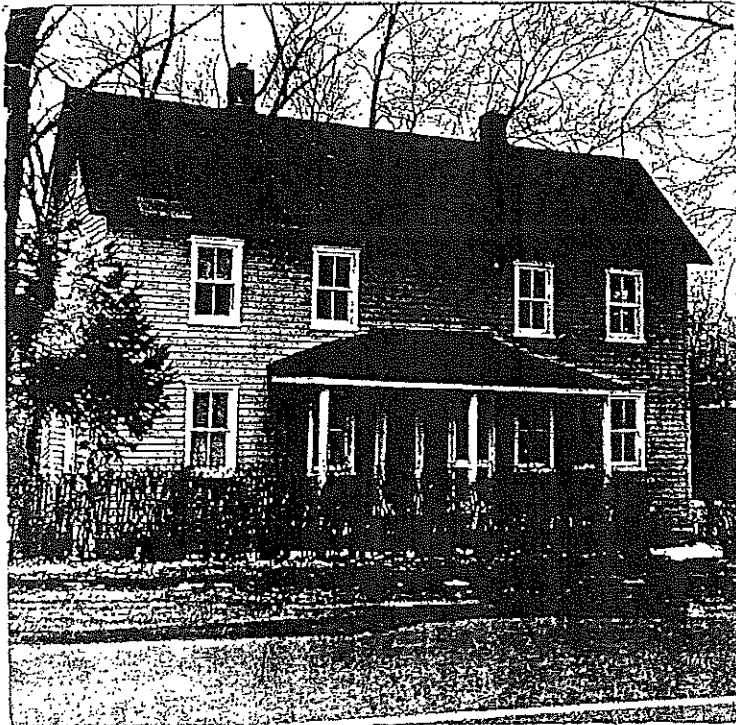
Red Hill Road

Block 795, Lot 8

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MTLIC #264

This now-vacant lot is historically part of Middletown village; pictured below is the building that formerly stood on this site and was burned in 1981. It was a two story, wood-clad two-family dwelling dating from the late 19th century, apparently constructed on the foundations of an earlier building. This site is locally known as the Tannery, perhaps after the older structure/use on the property. (*Short and Ford Architects, "Feasibility Study: Red Hill Road, Middletown Village Historic District, 1984, updated 1987).*



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #97

13 Red Hill Road

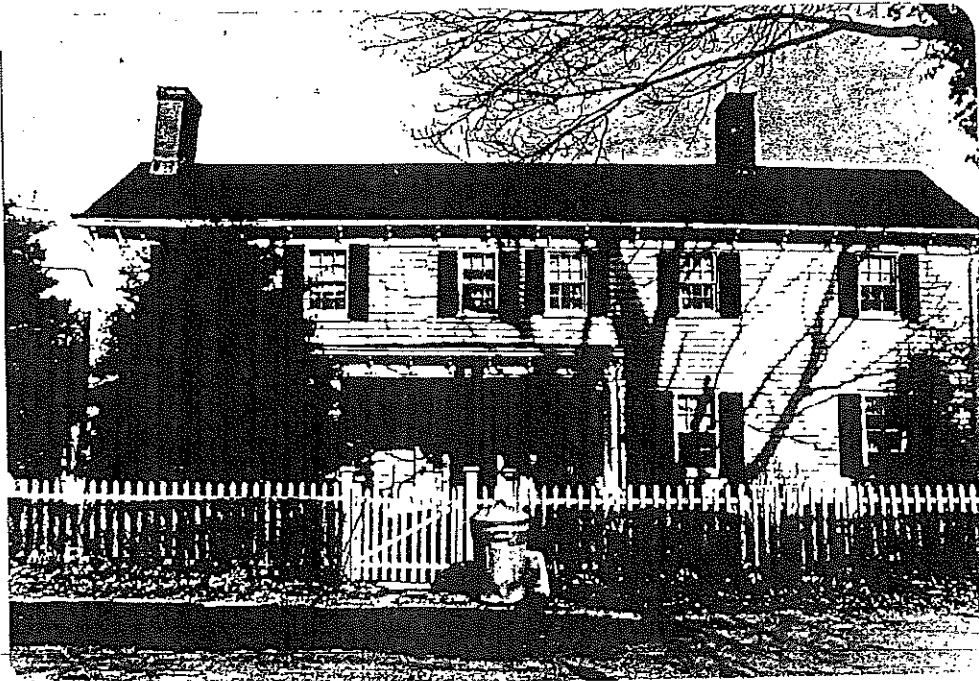
Block 795, Lot 7

Classification: Contributing

Reference: MLTC #46 MCHSI #1331-3-26

The oldest part of this house, possibly 18th century in origin, is the one story rear ell not visible from Red Hill Road. The main body of the clapboard-sided structure was built in two stages; the central three bay section with Greek Revival doorway was constructed about 1830, with lateral extensions on both ends made about 1860. Significant features include the bracketed cornice, 6/6 sash windows, three bay porch, and wide pilastered entry with transom light and sidelights.

Original ownership of this site has not been ascertained ; the name of Daniel Wilson is mentioned as owner on an 1830 deed, and Samuel I. Taylor is shown on a c. 1860 map drawn by Asher Taylor (noted as #5 on the map). Samuel Taylor is also shown as owner on the 1851, 1873 and 1878 maps. Part of the house is said to have been a shop or store for some time during the 19th century. The property is sometimes referred to as the Chanowicz House, after a Russian immigrant who came to the U.S. in 1917 and purchased this house in 1922.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #98

1 Red Hill Road

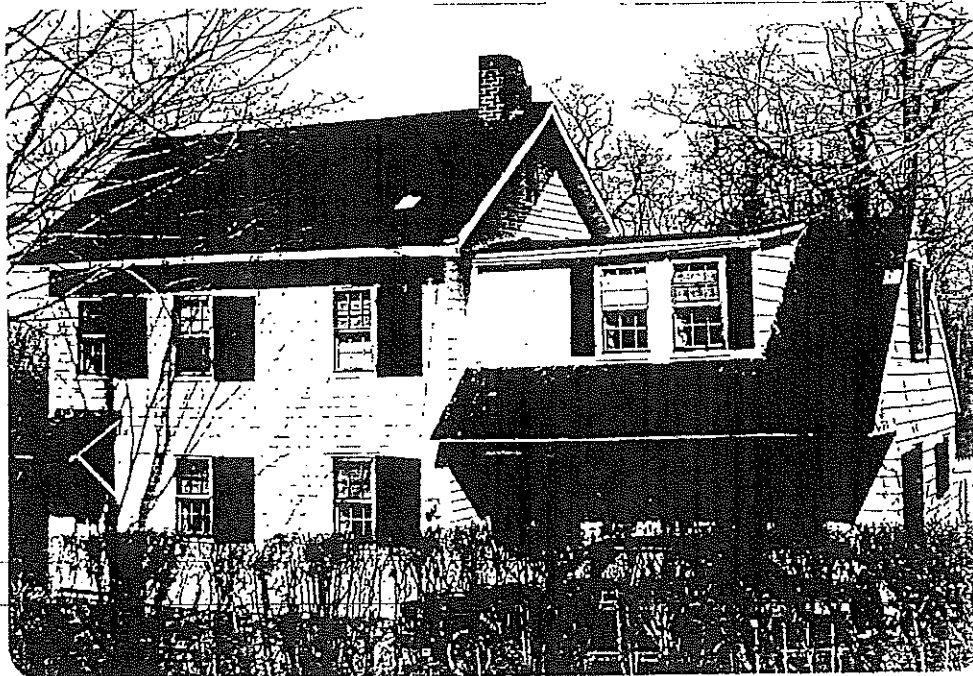
Block 795, Lot 6

Classification: Key

Reference: MTLT #47 MCHSI #1331-3-23

This house dates from Middletown village's early settlement and exhibits building practices that were common in Monmouth County during the 18th century. The original one-room three bay cottage, dating from the early 18th century, has a broad overhang but is not a Dutch flared eave. The original chimney has been removed, and additional windows and a shed dormer have been added. The two and a half story main block, which was probably built in the second half of the 18th century, has a new roof and chimney, shiplap siding (originally shingles or clapboard), and a 20th century glass-paneled door with shed-roof over door. Windows are 6/6 sash, most with single-leaf batten shutters.

This site is locally known as a Taylor property and was in the area known as the "Fourth Ward," which once contained an inn, tannery, store, and artisans' shops. In the mid-19th century, Ezra Osborne, whose residence was up the road (see Site #93), owned this property and operated a leather and harness shop here. In 1870, the post office was also in the shop.



Middletown Village Historic District

Site #99

138 Kings Highway

Block 600, Lot 150

Classification: Non-Contributing

Reference: MTLC #45

One story clapboard sided ranch house dating from the mid-20th century.

